GMA prefers Drilon for Senate president

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2001 ★★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 212 ₱15

PAUWIIN ANG MGA YAN!!!

Atong Ang plans to build mall in US

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

WHILE his friend Joseph Estrada is in jail, co-accused businessman

ATONG/ A5

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **2nd quarter growth seen at 3%**
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- **Goran, Venus win in Wimbledon**
  SPORTS/ A15

Abu Sayyaf chief of staff captured

AFP, PNP bickering over credit for arrest

BY AQUILES Z. ZONIO, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* AND CARLITO PABLO

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A top officer of the Abu Sayyaf and three of his men were captured by authorities in this city Sunday afternoon, elating Malacañang but triggering a conflict over credit between the military and the police.

Nadzmie Saabdulla alias Commander Global, said to be the "chief of staff" of the Abu Sayyaf faction based in Sulu, was presented to the media at the Philippine Army base in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, mid-afternoon yesterday after being flown in from Mindanao.

He has a P5-million prize on his head.

Radio reports from both Camp Crame and General Santos City quoted PNP officials as saying that the police were responsible for Global's arrest.

The reports said the military "snatched" the Abu Sayyaf leader from police custody in order to fly him to Manila and take credit for the accomplishment.

Global served as spokesperson for the bandit group during the hostage crisis last year, wherein hundreds of millions of pesos changed hands for the release of mostly European tourists abducted from the Malaysian resort island of Sipadan.

AFP/ A14

Low-profile intellectual behind Abu

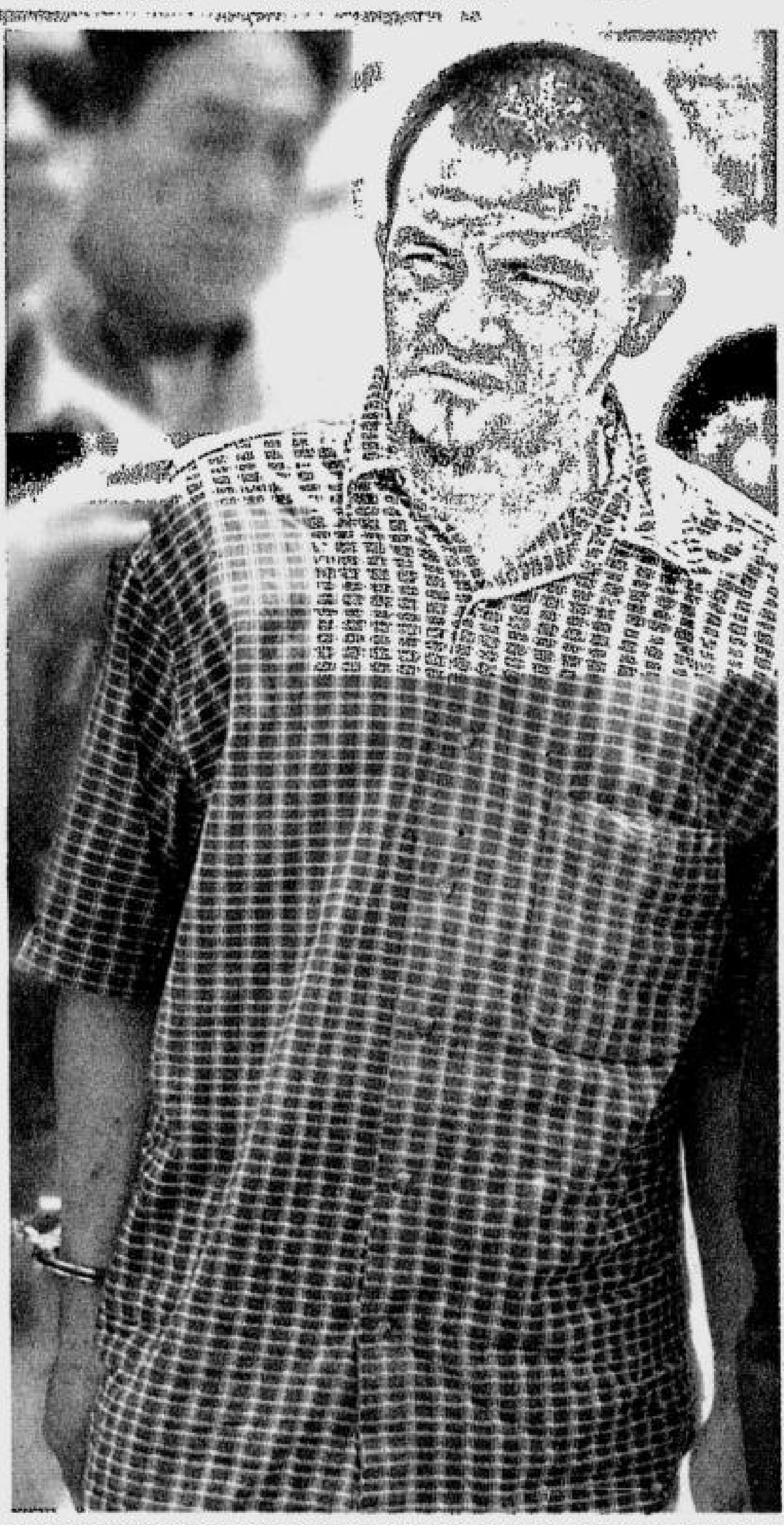
BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Nadzmie Saabdulla alias Commander Global, the first of the Abu Sayyaf leaders to fall into the hands of the law, commands respect not only among his peers but foreign journalists as well.

This was clearly shown in a video, shown on local television, which is perhaps the only record in living color of an actual abduction of foreign journalists, 10 of them in one haul, during last year's Sipadan hostage crisis.

Although the hostages, mostly crew and reporters of European television, were released after 12 hours with the payment of $25,000 in ransom, the footage taken by an Aus-

LOW/ A14



ROGER MARGALLO

THE BOUNTY for the capture of Nadzmie Saabdulla alias Commander Global and 3 of his men totals P8 million. Global arrives Manila Monday.

No more obstacles in Estrada arraignment

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday removed all legal hindrances to the unprecedented arraignment of a former Philippine president for the capital offense of economic plunder.

The anti-graft court rejected a defense motion to quash the historic case against Joseph Estrada and another motion asking Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. to inhibit himself due to his alleged bias against the accused.

The Sandiganbayan's third division dismissed the petition to scrap the plunder charge "for lack of merit." The court said it disagreed with the claim that the plunder law is unconstitutional due to vagueness.

In the matter of inhibiting himself, Badoy admitted displaying "exuberance," but said he was still impartial.

But Estrada lawyers were still bent on stopping, or at least delaying, the arraignment of Estrada, his son Jinggoy and lawyer Ed Serapio, scheduled for 2 p.m. today at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City.

"It can still be stopped," defense counsel Cleofe Versola told reporters after an afternoon hearing at the Sandiganbayan.

She said the defense would file this morning a petition for certiorari before the Supreme Court, asking the justices to issue a temporary restraining order in connection with the plunder case.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, however, predicted that the scheduled arraignment would take place this afternoon despite attempts by the defense panel to again delay the historic trial proceedings.

"*Laban* (Fight)!" exclaimed Desierto, the chief prosecutor in the People of the Philippines vs. Joseph Ejercito-Estrada case.

"The arraignment will push through as scheduled. I will per-

ESTRADA/ A14

Palace relieves Berroya as chief PNP spy

BY DAVE VERIDIANO AND JULIET JAVELLANA

WAS he fired or promoted?

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the controversial intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police, was relieved of his post yesterday.

But he was given another assignment, this time as head of the PNP Central Luzon Command.

But Berroya said his transfer to the Central Luzon Command was a "promotion" because the command was bigger than the PNP intelligence group.

The Central Luzon Command is perceived as one of the "juicy positions" among the 15 PNP regional commands.

The relief and transfer of Berroya, who had been accused by the opposition of allegedly feeding "garbage" intelligence reports to President Macapagal-Arroyo and of "masterminding" the alleged demolition job on Sen. Panfilo Lacson, is said to be part of the ongoing revamp of the PNP.

Lacson declined to comment on the relief and transfer of Berroya.

Aside from approving the PNP revamp, Ms Macapagal formally established yesterday the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC) to "accelerate the war against crime," particularly kidnappings and bank robberies.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President gave her marching orders to officials to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom and bank robbery syndicates within 90 days.

PALACE/ A14

Bishops back workers' call for pay increase

BY NORMAN BORDADORA, GIL CABACUNGAN JR. AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

EXPRESSING deep concern over the plight of the poor, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday joined the mounting calls for an across-the-board wage increase for workers in the private sector.

But the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) warned that the proposal to raise the minimum wages by P125 could force many enterprises to close shop and swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Taking the opposite view, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) said the wage increase would boost consumer spending and help revive the economy.

"The poor are already suffering so much with the rising cost of basic commodities. It is time for an increase in their wages," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who was reelected president of the CBCP during its 82nd Plenary Assembly, wherein it outlined its priorities, including the increased participation of the poor in the Church.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is also supporting calls for a wage increase.

"We call on the government to be on the side of justice and righteousness—uphold a worker's right to a living wage," Rev. Israel Alvaran of the UMC said in a statement.

The minimum wage in Metro Manila is P250, much lower than the P509 daily income or P15,269 monthly needed to support a family of six beyond the subsistence level.

On Saturday, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas was reported to be in favor of a P125

BISHOPS/ A14

Gloria favors Drilon to head Senate

BY BELINDA OLIVARES-CUNANAN

TO BLOCK the political opposition in the Senate, which could muster as many as 11 votes to win the Senate presidency for Sen. Edgardo Angara, President Macapagal-Arroyo has begun floating her preference for Sen. Franklin Drilon to that top post, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Over the weekend, the President reportedly called up a few senators belonging to her party, the Lakas-NUCD and the so-called "House bloc" consisting of former congressmen who had been elected to the Senate under the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC).

Among those the President reportedly called were Senators Manuel Villar, Recto and Renato Cayetano.

Less than two weeks before the opening of the Senate on July 23, the President's choice of Drilon over three other PPC aspirants has been interpreted by Senate insiders as a way of neutralizing the Angara bloc through Drilon.

Angara and Drilon are known to be close friends dating to their stint at the Accra law office. With Drilon the President hopes, according to the INQUIRER informant, to win the opposition over for a critical collaboration with her administration.

On July 1, President Macapagal met with the four aspirants from the PPC, namely, Drilon, Senators Joker Arroyo and Renato Cayetano; Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, who was then abroad, was represented by his daughter Gwen. With President Macapagal was political adviser Gabby Claudio.

The President was presented a diagram (**see graphics**) that listed down five groupings within the Senate as well as four individual names that were described as "floating."

The diagram showed that within the PPC are two groups: Lakas with Cayetano, Senators Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers. Flavier claims that in his group there's a "sub-bloc" composed of himself, Legarda and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Sen. Serge Osmeña may also be included in this sub-group, even if he ran under the PDP-Laban banner in the last elections.

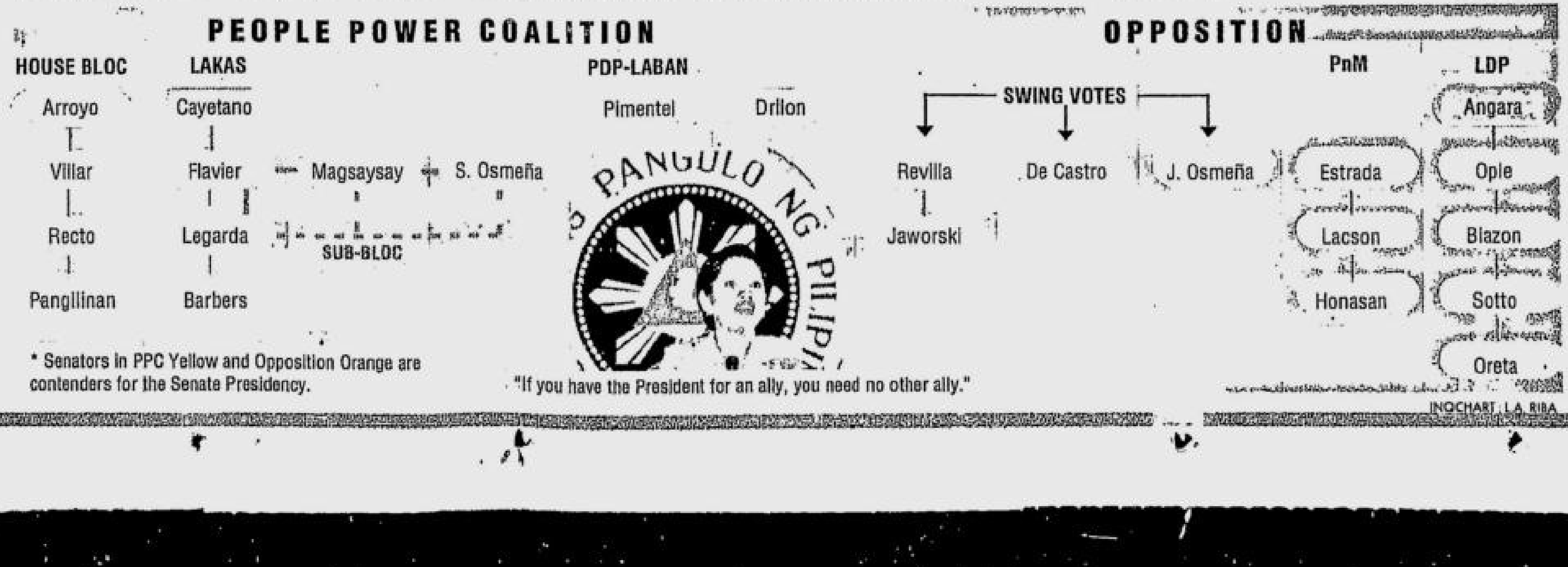
The Lakas bloc is said to be backing up Cayetano for Senate president.

Also listed with the PPC are Drilon, Pimentel and Sergio Osmeña.

Then there's the new "House bloc" of former representatives elected to the Senate, Villar,

GMA/ A13

THE QUESTION being asked Sen. Franklin Drilon: Where are your "identifiable allies?" JOAN BONDOC



* Senators in PPC Yellow and Opposition Orange are contenders for the Senate Presidency.

"If you have the President for an ally, you need no other ally."

INQCHART: L.A. RIBA

LAGOT, MAY ACTION NA!

Ador gets help from NGOs

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Cathy C. Yamsuan

CONVINCED that Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador, is telling the truth, civil society groups have formed a seven-man legal panel to prosecute those behind the abduction and possible murder of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

Led by lawyer Leonardo de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement, the panel will include Jose Aguila Grapilon, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Argee Guevarra, spokesperson of Sanlakas party-list group, and human rights lawyer Pete Prinsipe.

The three other panel members will be known at tomorrow's launching of the "Justice for Edgar Movement" in front of the Grand Bay Boulevard Hotel where Bentain was abducted two years ago.

Mawanay, who claims to have been a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Task Force, has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of ordering the abduction and killing of Bentain in 1999. Bentain earlier released a videotape that showed then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada, Lacson's patron, playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

At the time of Bentain's disappearance, Lacson was the national police chief and concurrent head of the PAOCTF.

Mawanay said Bentain was buried alive near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga, on Jan. 16, 1999.

Bentain's family had asked the anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption to form the legal team after finding the revelations of Mawanay "very credible."

De Vera, who with four other lawyers had grilled Mawanay over the weekend, said Ador's answers to their questions proved that "no doubt he worked for Lacson."

Ador came forward to reveal his part in criminal activities allegedly staged by the PAOCTF after sensing that he was targeted for assassination.

He said that several civilian agents in his group had been killed, including a certain "Mang Ben," allegedly a trusted aide of Lacson.

In previous interviews, Ador had implicated Lacson and his protégés, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao in the PAOCTF's illegal activities, particularly in the killing of Bentain.

Ador has also hinted at the participation of Jude Estrada, Estrada's son by Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, in some of the PAOCTF's illegal activities.

"The revelations are very credible and they should be pursued," De Vera said.

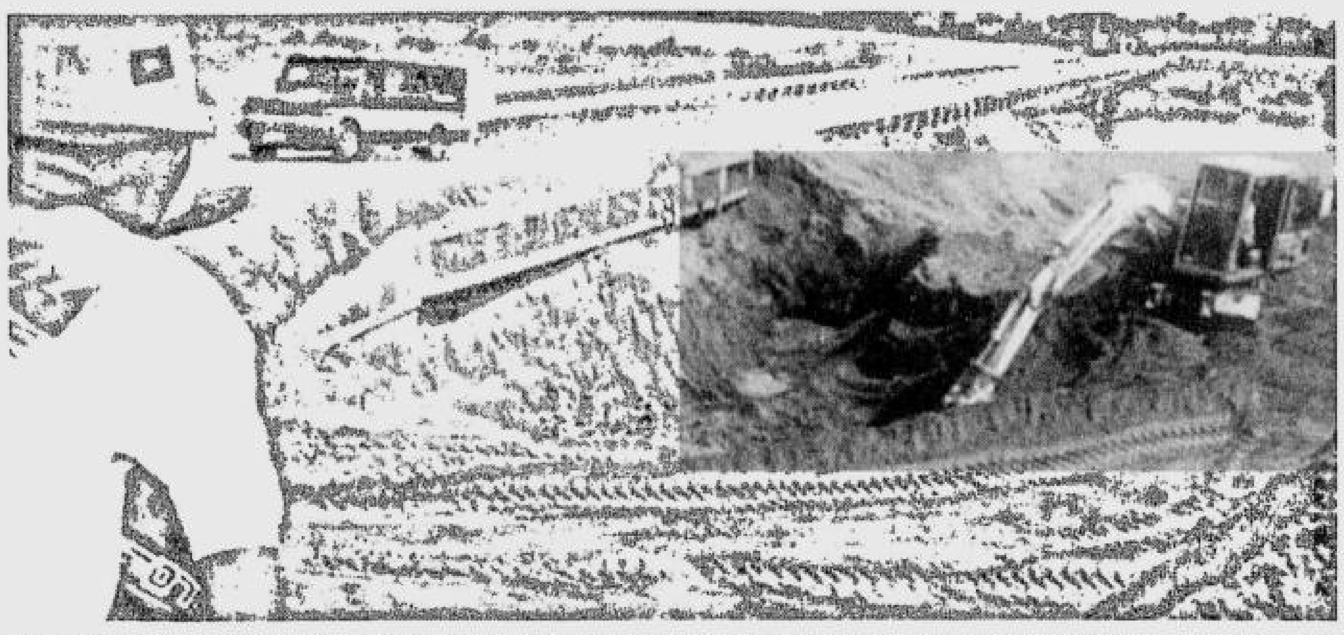
De Vera said the legal team would pursue the case even if authorities failed to recover Bentain's body.

"We don't really need to recover Edgar's body to have a case against the perpetrators as long as there are other credible (pieces of) evidence to corroborate Ador's revelations," he said.

De Vera also said that when he visited Mawanay, the civilian agent recognized him as one of those targeted for kidnapping and liquidation on Lacson's alleged orders.

"He said he recognized me from a photo, and that that picture came with instructions for my liquidation," said De Vera, who was part of the panel of private prosecutors in Estrada's impeachment trial.

With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Christine Avendaño



MILITARY agents searching for the body of casino employee Edgar Bentain continue to dig near the Cabetican Bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga.

TONETTE OREJAS

Search for Bentain body perils megadike

BACOLOR, Pampanga—Non-stop digging by military intelligence agents searching for the body of casino employee Edgar Bentain at the foot of the Cabetican Bridge here since last week might destroy an unarmored section of the FVR Megadike, Mayor Romeo Dungca warned Monday.

Local residents also raised fears for the life of a woman who claimed to have seen a drum full of cement near the site where agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force allegedly dumped Bentain's body in January 1999.

Using a backhoe and a payloader from the Pampanga engineering office, at least 10 agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) have excavated two adjacent sites at the eastern section of the bridge since last week.

The Isafp is now looking for metal detectors to help speed up the search.

The diggings, undertaken amid typhoon "Feria's" heavy rains, have proved futile, Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, said.

Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador, who claimed to be a PAOCTF civilian agent and who admitted participating in the abduction and killing of Bentain, allegedly on the orders of PAOCTF officials, arrived at the site Thursday to confirm the location.

Mawanay claimed that Bentain was sealed alive inside a drum full of cement.

The drum, according to him, was buried in a deep hole in a "long bridge," which turned out to be that in Cabetican.

Aided by the woman, Isafp agents resumed the diggings on Monday, creating a third hole as deep as 10 feet.

Rafanan said the woman, whom Isafp operatives called Julie, had urged the excavation team to dig deep, saying she had found the drum in a hole as deep as 10 feet.

However, Dungca expressed anxiety over the effect of the diggings on the megadike, Pampanga's main catchment of Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

Officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Central Luzon, which was managing the 56-km long dike, said the Isafp did not coordinate the diggings with the agency. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Carlito Pablo in Manila***

Now, it's smuggled cell phones

ALLEGED civilian agent Angelo Mawanay alias Ador has claimed Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. made P585 million in illegally selling smuggled cellular phones in one year alone.

In a sworn statement, Mawanay said Lacson was able to dispose of a total of 65,000 units of Nokia 3210 valued at P9,000 each from April 1998 to the first quarter of 1999.

At the time, Mawanay said, Nokia 3210 was selling at P13,000 each from legitimate cellular phone companies.

Lacson, he said, ordered him to find big-time buyers for the smuggled cellular phones and that he was promised a commission of P4,000 per unit.

Mawanay said Lacson owed him as much as P260 million in commission but failed to deliver his end of the bargain.

He said Lacson would sometimes order the seizure of cellular phone units imported by a telecommunications giant even if the importation was properly documented.

Later, Mawanay said, Lacson would order the release of half of the units held and the rest would be sold to the telecommunications giant's competitor at even a lower price.

"Being a salesman, I could easily find buyers. Sometimes, Lacson himself would give me names, then I deliver the units," Mawanay said.

The units were being disposed of "in bulk," he said. The lowest volume was at 1,000 units per buyer, he added.

The buyers, he said, would pay out in "pay to cash" checks. These checks, Mawanay said, were brought directly to Lacson.

"I was afraid the banks would not cash the checks and would ask me so many questions because of the amount involved. The smallest amount paid out in checks was worth P9 million. The bank would not give that much money to me. So I gave the checks to Lacson, who always promised to give me my commission after the checks were cashed. Not a single centavo came," Mawanay lamented.

Mawanay did not name the buyers in his affidavit but he submitted the list to Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He gave some names to the INQUIRER but asked that the names be withheld.

"Big names are involved. The list is now with Colonel Corpus," Mawanay said.

Mawanay said one of the reasons he came out in the open was Lacson's failure to pay him his commission.

Just so Lacson would give him what was due him, he suggested to the senator to pay him a total of P100 million and the rest of the P160 million would be written off.

"Before the elections, (Senior Supt.) Michael Ray Aquino kept on telling me that the P100 million would be issued to me by Lacson. I realized, Aquino was just saying all those because they wanted me to do more illegal operations like bank robberies for them," he said.

Last month, Mawanay said, he learned that Lacson ordered two civilian agents to kill him for P5 million.

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Gov't receives Swiss, German documents on Marcos billions

THE GOVERNMENT has received documents confirming that Irene Marcos-Araneta tried to launder billions of dollars in alleged stolen wealth, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Philippine investigators had been told by their Swiss and German counterparts that Irene, the younger of two daughters of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and her husband Greggy Araneta, had tried to transfer funds to the Deutsche Bank from the Union Bank of Switzerland, Perez said.

Perez's statements confirmed an INQUIRER report last week that a Philippine government delegation sent to Dusseldorf, Germany, had received evidence from German investigators of Irene's attempt to transfer funds from her UBS deposits to the Deutsche Bank's Dusseldorf branch.

UBS has repeatedly denied that it was handling any Marcos or Araneta accounts.

Militants yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to lodge a diplomatic protest with the Swiss government for keeping the ill-gotten wealth in behalf of the Marcoses.

In a statement, the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the Swiss Embassy in Manila should be informed that "the 75 million Filipinos are outraged" at the Swiss government's preferential bias for the Marcoses.

Perez said the German government had provided documents to prove that Irene and Greggy Araneta, along with four Marcos associates, opened bank accounts in the Deutsche Bank in February reportedly to transfer billions of dollars in Marcos money stashed at the UBS.

No precise figures were given.

German authorities were later forced to close "their investigation of the money-laundering attempt" because no money was transferred and therefore no crime was committed, Perez said.

According to him, he submitted a full report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, including recommendations for recovering wealth allegedly plundered by Marcos during his 20 years in power.

"In Switzerland, the two governments reaffirmed their cooperative efforts to pursue with deliberate speed the pending actions in both Switzerland and the Philippines involving Marcos crony assets that remain frozen and subject to court actions," Perez said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government earlier said it would summon the Araneta couple for questioning.

Perez said the government was also studying the "viability of obtaining accounting and disclosure orders" for the couple.

The government claims that Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, had plundered state coffers during his rule and that his family and heirs have stashed more funds abroad although it has yet to prove the claim.

In the early 1990s, the government recovered about $540 million from Swiss accounts. The money is now held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank where, with interest, it has now grown to $642 million, pending the resolution of legal cases concerning its ownership.

Pamalakaya spokesperson Nolly Serrano said the Swiss government violated the sovereign rights of the Filipino people when it allowed the Marcoses to transfer their ill-gotten deposits to other banks in Europe.

"We urge the Macapagal administration to exercise the right of a sovereign state against another state which coddled the Marcoses and their ill-gotten billions," he said.

David Chaikin, a money laundering expert and a former senior fraud officer for the Australian government, said the UBS kept and maintained the Irene Marcos-Araneta account amounting to $13.2 billion.

Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who has been deputized by the justice department to help track down the Marcos deposits abroad, has expressed fears that the UBS deposits may have already been transferred to another European bank.

"The Swiss government owes the Filipino people a multitude of explanation. It is a national slur fired in indiscriminate proportions against the Filipino people," Serrano said.

Serrano also called on the government to immediately file plunder and criminal charges against the Araneta couple.

"It is time to end the Marcoses' three decades of revelry and merry-making. They must face their destiny in courts and in jails," he said.

Earlier, militants asked the Macapagal administration to inhibit the PCGG, the agency tasked with going after the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, from going after the Marcoses' stash abroad.

The group lamented that the government had been wasting millions in "taxpayers' money" in paying the salaries and benefits of PCGG officials who they said have produced nothing but "flimsy reports and jurassic updates."

"What we need are patriotic, competent and dedicated people who will work in the best interest of more than 70 million Filipinos, not an exclusive club for treasure-hunters and pleasure-seekers," Pamalakaya said.

The militants may yet get what they want. Sen. Sergio Osmeña has filed a bill seeking to abolish the PCGG and transfer its powers to the justice department. *AFP with a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

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Moderate quake jolts Metro

A MODERATE earthquake struck Metro Manila and five nearby provinces early yesterday, rousing some people from sleep but causing no injury or damage, officials said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said a movement in the Lubang fault set off the 4.4-magnitude quake at 1:17 a.m.

"I was half-asleep on my chair when I felt my chair slightly shaking," said Vilma Hernandez, a researcher at the Phivolcs in Quezon City.

The quake was centered in the sea about 130 km south of Manila. It was also felt in the resort town of Puerto Galera on Mindoro island and in some areas in the provinces of Quezon, Cavite and Rizal.

The quake's epicenter was placed at 20 km and 56 km west of Batangas City. No aftershocks were expected and no damage to property was reported.

The quake measured Intensity 4 in Tagaytay City and Tanauan, Batangas; Intensity 3 in Manila and Lucban, Quezon; Intensity 2 in Quezon City and Taguig, Rizal; and Intensity 1 in Guinyangan, Quezon.

The country lies in the so-called Pacific "ring of fire" where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common. *Reports from AP and Cynthia Balana*

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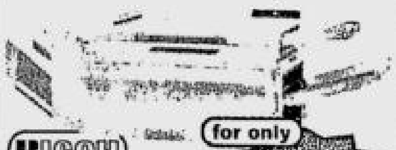

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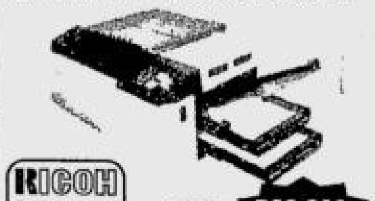

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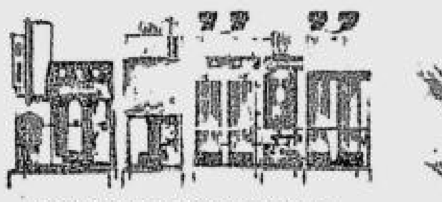

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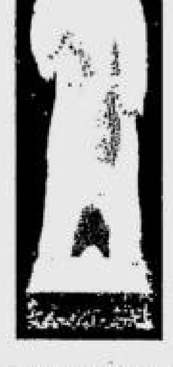

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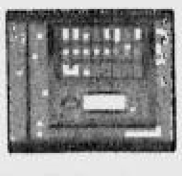

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New storm spotted east of Cagayan as 'Feria' death toll hits 128

ANOTHER potentially destructive storm is threatening the country as authorities placed the final death toll from last week's typhoon "Feria" at 128.

Tropical depression "Gorio" with winds of up to 55 km per hour was spotted 480 km east southeast of Aparri, Cagayan, at 10 a.m. yesterday morning and was moving northwest at 15 kph toward Batanes, a weather bureau advisory said.

Gorio has drifted northward, threatening the extreme north of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 is in effect over the Batanes group, Cagayan, including the Calayan islands, Isabela and Apayao provinces. These areas will have rains and winds of up to 55 kph, the weather bureau said.

Coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

Gorio is expected to induce monsoon rains over the western and southern sections of Luzon and western Visayas.

Last week, Feria, one of the most powerful storms to hit the Philippines in years, battered the rice and corn-growing regions of Luzon with winds gusting up to 170 km.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said 128 people were killed as a result of the storm, many through landslides or electrocutions. Nearly 50 people are still missing and 157 others were hurt.

Reyes said in a radio interview that the typhoon affected nearly a million people—including nearly 12,000 people who were forced to flee their homes.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council estimated damage to infrastructure and agriculture at P1.59 billion.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said his department planned to distribute seeds to corn and vegetable farmers in Luzon so that they can plant again.

The agriculture department also plans to sell unmilled rice to affected farmers at reduced terms.

The Department of Agriculture said it lost about 180,000 tons of corn in Cagayan and Isabela provinces because of the typhoon, a volume equivalent to nearly a quarter of the country's annual demand shortfall.

"Damage to corn was extensive because standing corn in the two provinces were mostly in their most vulnerable stages of reproduction and maturity," a department report said.

The department said rice crop was not as badly affected as corn because most of these were in early stages of vegetation.

In Dagupan City, what officials were not able to do for years, typhoon "Feria" did in only a few hours.

Feria's angry winds wiped out hundreds of illegal fishpens dotting the Lingayen Gulf and the city's rivers that had been the headache of local government and fishery officials.

City Administrator Rafael Baraan said officials could not determine how much the operators of these illegal structures lost but said the typhoon destroyed about P60 million worth of fish stock in the city alone.

A one-hectare fish pen structure costs about P150,000, it was learned.

Records of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission showed that 1,100 illegal fish pens were scheduled for demolition by the Inter Agency Task Force for Coastal Environment Protection before the May 14 elections. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Cynthia D. Balana and Reuters*

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The Judicial and Bar Council announces the opening of the position of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE of the SUPREME COURT**, which will be vacated by Justice Minerva Gonzaga Reyes on her compulsory retirement on 25 September 2001.

The application or recommendation for this position shall be filed not later than **FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST 2001**.

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This Notice is being issued by the **PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ("PDIC")** pursuant to Resolution No. 634, issued by the Monetary Board of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* on 26 April 2000, placing Urban Bank, Inc. (the "Corporation") under receivership and appointing the PDIC as receiver thereof.

Notice is hereby given that a special stockholders' meeting of the Corporation will be held on **July 31, 2001**, at **9:30 a.m.** at the **36th Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Urban Avenue, Makati City.** The agenda of the meeting is the approval of the **proposed merger** of the Corporation, Urbancorp Investments, Inc. and Export Industry Bank, with the Corporation as the surviving entity, the proposed merger being part of the **rehabilitation plan** for the Corporation. **The election of directors** of the Corporation will also take place.

The shares of the Corporation were placed under trading halt by the Philippine Stock Exchange effective 27 April 2000, and such trading halt continues to the present. Stockholders of record as of 31 July 2001 shall be entitled to vote. All proxies must be submitted for verification and record purposes not later than 5:00 p.m., five (5) banking days before the meeting, or on July 24, 2001 at the Office of the Deputy Receiver, 18th Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Urban Avenue, Makati City.

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Atong Ang plans to build mall in US

(From page A1)

Charlie "Atong" Ang is building a new life in America, planning to put up a mall in California, and is set on fighting any extradition attempt on "human rights" grounds.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ang, whom government prosecutors have charged with plunder, told him this himself when the two men spoke at a party in Los Angeles on June 13.

"He doesn't want to return home because, according to him, his human rights will be violated," Pimentel told reporters at a news conference yesterday.

The businessman denied he was hiding from the law and was even "openly transacting business in California," according to the lawmaker, who had just returned from a trip abroad.

Ang also told Pimentel that Yolanda Ricaforte, an auditor who is also wanted on plunder charges, is also in California, and that the two co-accused keep in touch.

The government's former gaming consultant for Bingo-2 Ball operations "will fight any attempt to extradite him, because it looks like he is putting up a mall somewhere in California," Pimentel said, adding that he had forgotten the exact construction site.

The senator told the news conference that he gave a memo to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez recounting his meeting with Ang at the house of his friend, Dr. Yoyong Seriña.

At the press conference, Pimentel said that Ang came to see him at Seriña's birthday party upon learning that the Senate President was in Los Angeles.

In his memo to Perez, dated June 15 but submitted only yesterday, Pimentel noted that Ang has applied for an investor's visa to the United States and that he will fight his extradition "on the grounds of human rights."

Pimentel told reporters that Ang's nephew, a certain Nino Lim, was supposedly helping his uncle put up the mall. Lim was with Ang at the birthday party, Pimentel added.

ANG

Both Ang and Ricaforte fled the country a few days after Estrada was ousted by People Power II.

Ang raised a dilemma he would have if he were to testify in the plunder cases against the former President, Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Ed Serapio, who are scheduled for arraignment today.

According to Ang, he cannot change the testimony he gave before the Senate blue ribbon committee "without losing credibility."

"He says if he were to change that testimony, he has no documentary evidence to back up his new story," Pimentel said in his memo to Perez.

Did he lie?

Pimentel said Ang claimed that he had already told President Macapagal-Arroyo about his supposed predicament regarding the possibility of his testifying against Estrada.

Asked whether this meant that Ang had lied to senators during the inquiry into accusations of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada had accepted "jueteng" money and tax kickbacks, Pimentel said: "I'm not saying that. Maybe the implication is he'll be lying if he changes his testimony. That's the other side of the coin, isn't it?"

In his memo to Perez, Pimentel also said that Ang, among other things:

- Denied knowledge of where the money allegedly given by Singson to Estrada through Ang had come from.
- Didn't know that there is such a thing as tobacco excise taxes or that any such tax money was due to the province of Ilocos Sur.
- Claimed that aside from the first release of the tobacco excise tax share of Ilocos Sur, there was another amount released involving more than P200 million that Singson allegedly used for his own purposes.

Unfair

Ang also branded as "unfair" Singson's exclusion from the list of people charged with the non-bailable crime of plunder and related offenses.

Pimentel told reporters that he wrote these things down so that the Department of Justice "can do what it wants to do."

He said that the justice department had cancelled Ang's passport, rendering the latter's US visa invalid and his stay in America illegal.

"So that means the next step is to extradite him," said Pimentel. But, the senator added, "that is precisely what (Ang) told me: He is going to fight the extradition."

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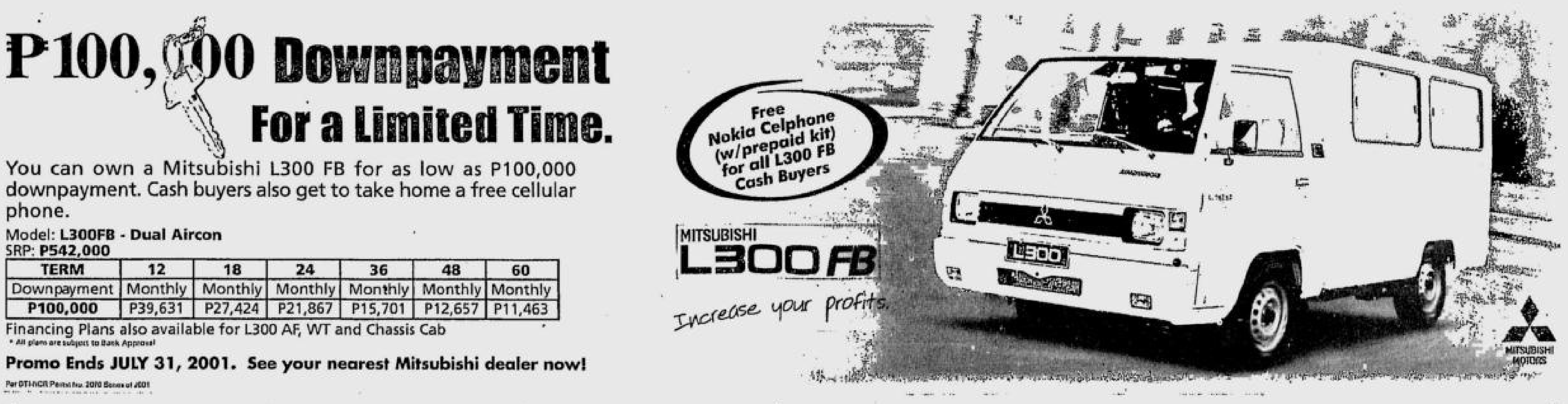

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Feral 'Feria'

EDITORIAL

"FERIA," a typhoon whose name is associated with festivity and fun, brought anything but these to the country last week. It sowed death and destruction in its path, killing 121 people, injuring 130 and leaving 44 missing. It displaced close to 900,000 people and destroyed more than P1 billion in public works, agricultural products and private property.

One of the hardest hit areas was Baguio City where water knee to waist deep flooded the central business district and residential areas. People never thought that Baguio, which lies 1,500 meters up in the mountains, would ever suffer a calamitous flood, but it did. "Feria" also wreaked havoc in Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila.

What caused such a disastrous flood? Well, the usual factors have been identified: widespread and indiscriminate logging, the clogging of an antiquated drainage system and the dumping of garbage in waterways in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

Illegal and indiscriminate logging has long been pinpointed as one of the primary causes of flooding during the rainy season, but little has been done about the problem. Ted Bonpin of Tanggol Kalikasan said that "Feria" proved that a logging ban is no longer an issue. "If forests are denuded, flooding is certain. That is a scientific fact," he said.

A recent study showed that the Philippines is now one of the most severely deforested countries in the tropics, and that most of the deforestation has taken placed in the last 40 years. Forest cover which was estimated at 21 million hectares or 70 percent of total land area in 1900 decreased to 22.2 percent in 1998.

A worst-case scenario projects a disastrous reduction of the forest cover to 6.6 percent in 2010; a best-case scenario sees it at 19 percent. The study, "Decline of the Philippine Forest," by the Environmental Science for Social Change Inc., says, "Judging by human behavior over the last 100 years, nothing less than a miracle will be needed to save the forest and to prevent this disaster from happening…Unless there is a radical change in attitude and behavior, the disaster will happen."

In the lowlands and central plains, one major factor that causes flooding is the antiquated drainage system. In places where the drainage has been improved, such as, for instance, in Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati, flash floods subside fast because the water is sucked quickly into the large-diameter drainage pipes.

Another factor that causes flooding in Metro Manila and other urban areas is the dumping and poor disposal of garbage. The government in some cities, like Makati, have taken steps to prevent the dumping of garbage in canals, *esteros* and other waterways by fencing them off, but some residents seem to have no regard for their community's safety: they cut holes in the wire fences and persist in dumping their garbage on the waterways. Some people will never learn.

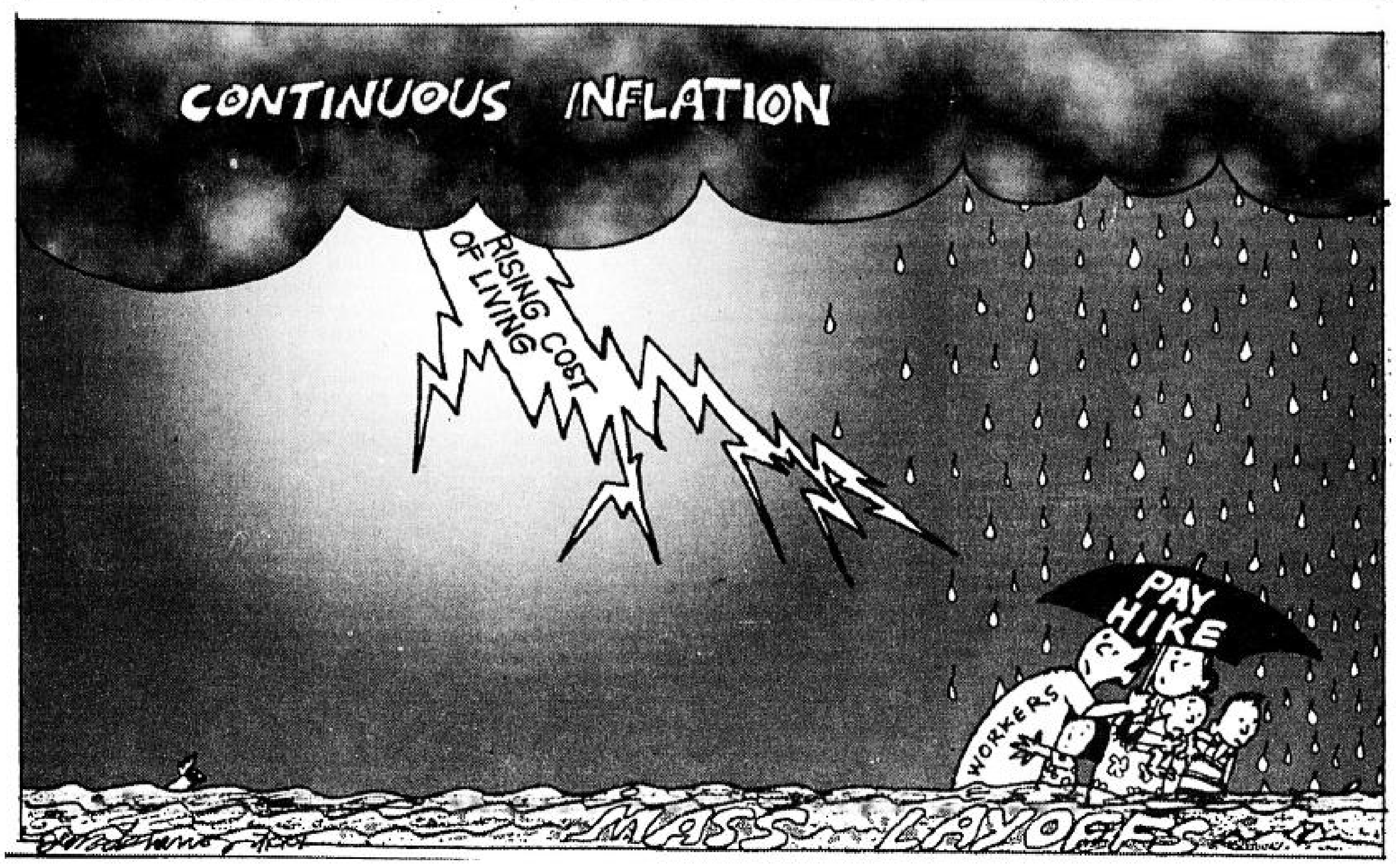
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been so incensed by this that she has ordered the Armed Forces to help the local governments clear the waterways of the metropolis of the tons of garbage. Of the 6,000 tons that the metropolis produces daily, about 35 percent ends up in sewers, rivers and creeks.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the local governments will have to devise a more efficient way of collecting garbage. At the same time, the barangays can help by conducting an information campaign among their members, impressing upon them that they can help prevent flooding in their communities if they will avoid throwing their garbage into rivers, *esteros* and other waterways.

To go back to illegal and indiscriminate logging: The growing population is one major factor in the denudation of the country's forests. More people need more land for the planting of commercial crops, for cattle raising and for the building of houses. But it cannot be denied that greed and the desire for quick money caused the quick destruction of the country's forests.

The ESSC study said: "It would be difficult to exaggerate the part played by elite control and corruption in explaining the destruction of the Philippine forest. Since the elite in effect participated in the government and the logging industry, this led to corrupt and inefficient regulation by the government of the logging process."

The ESSC is right: Unless there is a radical change in people's attitudes and behavior, disaster will hit the country. And this concerns not only deforestation but also the dumping of garbage in the cities. The elite will have to change their attitude and act as responsible stewards of the nation's forests. And the masses will have to realize that they will actually be saving themselves from floods if they dispose properly of their garbage.



Promote urban farming and create jobs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MALACAÑANG is dictating even on what should be the exclusive domain of artists. The Presidential Management Staff has ordered the postponement "until further orders'" of the election of the chair and of the head of the Sub-Commission on Cultural Heritage of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Officers of the NCCA are not appointed by Malacañang; they are elected by the different artist and cultural groups. Malacañang has no business interfering with them. Art is supposed to be above politics.

PMS Secretary Vicky Garchitorena called the NCCA as it was about to hold its election last July 5 and asked that it be postponed. Why? Because an ambitious politician, who has run and lost in one election after another, has run out of positions to run for and, for lack of anything else, wants the NCCA chairmanship for herself.

The politician is former Sen. Leticia Shahani; whose family, now that her brother Fidel V. Ramos is no longer president, has fallen on hard times. She can't seem to win any election. Even her son Ranjit lost his congressional seat in the last elections. So she has set her eyes on the chairmanship of the NCCA. Perhaps she doesn't realize it, but she would be better off gunning for one of the government financial institutions (GFI) or government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCC). The salary of NCCA chair is only P5,000 a month. The present chair of the NCCA is Jaime Laya against whom a demolition campaign is currently being waged.

The trouble with being NCCA chair is that you must be acceptable to the artistic community. And while Laya is acceptable, Shahani is not. The reason is that Shahani, not being an artist, forced her way into the NCCA. She became a member of the Library Committee although she is not a librarian. Her excuse: "I also use libraries."

Shahani was elevated to that committee's Executive Council and became its head on the same day. This is in violation of committee rules that have been in force since December 1997. According to Laya, the NCCA board discussed Shahani's status on two occasions and both times unanimously concluded that her election was irregular, being outside of the approved process.

The Library Committee is one of the six committees in the Sub-Commission on Cultural Heritage (SCH). The others are archives, art galleries, historical research, monuments and sites, and museums. The heads of these six committees elect the head of the SCH who, in turn, becomes eligible to be elected chair of the NCCA. All of them have finished their committee elections and were scheduled to elect the head of the SCH last July 5 when it was stopped by Malacañang. The reason: Ms Shahani was not elected head of the Library Committee. It was the librarian of De La Salle University who was elected. That is why the group headed by Shahani is contesting the committee composition and its election results.

* * *

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asked businessmen to give jobs to the jobless. The trouble is, there are pitifully few jobs to give. Meanwhile, the families of these jobless grow hungry. What can we do?

The President can do two things. One is to do what her father, Diosdado Macapagal, did when he was president. The older Macapagal formed the Emergency Employment Administration, which was copied from the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the United States was coming out of the Depression. The EEA hired laborers to dig ditches and build roads just to give them jobs so that they will have food to eat and money to buy goods and help business to grow and boost the economy.

The administration of the younger Macapagal doesn't have the money to hire armies of laborers, but it can ask contractors of government infrastructure projects to use human labor instead of machines whenever possible. In the first place, machines use up expensive fuel. So why not hire laborers to dig holes ? Instead of making foreign-owned oil companies richer, why not use the money to hire Filipino workers?

The other thing that the President can do is promote urban farming. This involves planting vegetables in backyards and vacant lots. Typhoon Feria has shown us what happens when Baguio is cut off from the rest of Luzon: the vegetables from Trinidad Valley stop coming to the consumers in Central Luzon. Now the prices of vegetables in Metro Manila have gone through the ceiling. If Metro Manilans grow their own vegetables, there would be no shortage.

What's more, urban farming would give jobless people in Metro Manila a means of livelihood. There are hectares and hectares of idle land in the metropolis that can be converted into vegetable gardens. One of them is a two-hectare parcel sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government located at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and C-5 in Pasig. It can be turned into a vegetable garden by street children. This is ideal for a vegetable garden because the land is flat and it has some unoccupied buildings where the produce can be processed and also serve as quarters for street children. An NGO, KaMMMPi Inc., has offered to teach and supervise the children.

The Bosoboso Valley in Antipolo has a climate similar to that of Trinidad Valley. It is planted to rice during the rainy season, but it is not cultivated during summer although it has a stream running across it. Like Trinidad Valley, it can also be a vegetable bowl. A farmer has already tried planting cabbage there. He produced so much that the markets of Metro Manila couldn't absorb all his harvest.

The settlers and squatters of Bosoboso Valley engage in *kaingin* and cut the trees for charcoal. The beautiful forest of Benguet pines planted by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation years ago are being cut down by squatters and landgrabbers. If they are given other means of livelihood, such as planting vegetables, they would stop cutting trees.

Three for the road

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I STOLE in last weekend to a scorching sun. I thought it would be a dreary dawn. Before I left San Francisco, I kept reading about the storm that hit the north and left more than a dozen dead, and got e-mail from friends saying it was gray and rainy here. But, well, who says the country is predictable?

Before I go back to truly dreary things, three more *pahabol* from where I came from may be worth the paper they're printed on:

* * *

Joe Robles is a member of San Francisco's finest. He looks not unlike Erik Estrada of "Chips" fame, and can probably make it to the movies if he wants to. Somebody told me he is the grandson of a movie actor in the Philippines, but I forget who. He does workouts and it shows. He is as fit as a fiddle, or, well, as a San Francisco cop.

He was still a kid when his family moved to America, and he speaks like a native. But he also is still able to speak Tagalog, and certainly understands every word of it. He is passionate about the Philippines and reads all he can about it. When I spoke at the Philippine Resource Center, he called up to say he was coming over as soon as he wrapped up the day's work. He arrived in the middle of things and was eager as a beaver, or, well, as someone who reads all he can about the Philippines.

Someone tells me a story about him. One day, says the storyteller, while driving on a San Francisco highway, she saw on her rearview mirror that a police car was tailing her. She wondered what she had done wrong, having been driving carefully, as most Filipinos do in the United States, having no wish to invite the attention of cops. She worried that it might be a broken taillight. She slowed down, the car slowed down. She accelerated, the car accelerated. Finally, the police car pulled up beside her. She rolled down her window to ask what the matter was. The car rolled down its window, too, and there was Robles waving and cheerfully greeting her.

Robles himself has a story to tell about remembering half-forgotten things. When he was a rookie cop, they sent him to a particularly tough part of town. And true enough, it proved tough. One day, as he stood in front of a store, a car came speeding by, stereo at full blast, and its occupants started spraying the store with bullets. He dove under his car, but instead of pulling out his gun, he pulled out his walkie-talkie. He started shouting, "*P——g ina, binabaril nila 'ko rito! Tulungan n'yo ko!*"

He heard a voice on the other side, saying calmly: "That must be Robles."

* * *

One person's glory is another person's ignominy. One person's victory is another person's defeat.

There is a marker in Union Square that pays tribute to the American servicemen who sailed off more than a century ago to conquer new worlds. It extols in particular the victory of those Americans over the Spanish forces in the Philippine Islands under Commodore Dewey. The shrine that houses this marker is not accessible at this point; it is under construction. I made out the marker from a distance.

The other side of that marker of course is the blood that got to be spilled not between the Spaniards and the Americans—very little blood, if any, was spilled between them, the Spanish made it a point to surrender to Dewey, and not to Aguinaldo, after a mock battle in Manila Bay, the original acoustic war—but between the Filipinos and Americans. Mainly the Filipinos': the Americans had superior arms and a more murderous intent.

Later, I would see even more clearly the other side of that marker. It was in the form of editorials and cartoons from Harper's Magazine in 1898 about the splendid little war in the Philippines. The cartoons in particular were revealing, depicting Filipinos as a tribal people with grass skirts and spears, whom civilization, or the White Man's burden, was turning into Negroes with top hats and walking sticks. The letters of the American servicemen who won the great victory at the other side of the world were also revealing. One soldier wrote to his family that he felt a rush each time he got one of the black men under his sights. Beat rabbit-hunting anytime, he said.

I remember that until the 1960s, when Teodoro Agoncillo and Renato Constantino came along, we pretty much took that version of how America came to the Philippines ourselves. Either that, or we buried the American Occupation deep within the recesses of our collective brain, content to let it pass as a minor footnote to history, one of those unpleasant things we were well advised not to dwell on.

I thought of all the other markers in America. The ones that praised the courage of the Americans who died in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and won a great victory for their nation, however you defined victory. I wondered what lay at their other side.

Strange things, markers.

* * *

While checking in at the San Francisco airport, I gazed in awe at the gigantic *balikbayan* boxes that were being loaded on to the carousel, and wondered how our plane could possibly lift off. PAL must hold the Guinness record for carrying the heaviest load each flight. I suddenly understood why the airline requires passengers to check in three hours before flight time. Other airlines require only two hours or even one hour. Checking in is an elaborate process of haggling, with the overloaded passenger always losing.

For some reason, every passenger thinks he or she is the exception. Surely, they say, a few more kilos cannot matter, forgetting, or unmindful of, the fact that a collective few more kilos come up to a lot of kilos. One ground crew person in exasperation told a passenger that if the plane got too heavy, *baka kung ano ang mangyari*.

Later, I heard the passenger complaining to another passenger. "*Sobra naman sila*, they are too strict here," to the vigorous nods of the other passenger. I thought to myself, it's the story of our lives. Obviously, it does not occur to us that if a plane crashes, there will be no exceptions. Obviously, it does not occur to us that if a plane crashes, there will be no making *pakiusap* with God or the devil.

Father Honti should be named National Artist

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME years back, this column already endorsed the elevation of Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, S.J., to National Artist. After hearing the concert, "Pananagutan: A Lifetime of Music & Love," featuring songs in Filipino that Father Hontiveros composed over a period of 30 years, at the UP Main Theater last weekend, I would like to repeat that endorsement to the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and to President Macapagal herself. Few deserve to be named National Artist more than "Father Honti," as he is known to all his friends. He ought to be declared a National Artist for liturgical music, or if such a category is not available, then it should be created just for him.

* * *

If the qualification for a National Artist is one who has influenced the Filipinos in a profoundly pervasive and lasting way, then Father Honti is more than eminently qualified. As Jaime Cardinal Sin put it, Father Honti "dedicated his life to creating some of the most beautiful and memorable liturgical hymns for the Filipino Church. Who among us, for example, has not heard or sung 'Pananagutan' or his version of 'Ama Namin' and 'Papuri sa Diyos.' It is difficult to imagine our Masses without the familiar songs of Father Honti—songs that indeed have become the soundtrack of our lives."

What Mass is truly complete without one of his best known songs, which is also among his first works—"Luwalhati sa Diyos," also known as the "The Gloria"? His "Ama Namin" became one of the battle hymns of the Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986, helping to stop those tanks as the people did a *kapit bisig*.

* * *

As the concert literature pointed out, Father Honti's songs have resounded louder than his name. They have filled up the cathedrals as well as the churches in various municipalities and the tiny *kapilyas* in the remotest barrios all over the Philippines. And they have also resounded in foreign lands, brought by overseas contract workers to Hong Kong, Taipei and Europe, as well as by professionals in the United States. Neighboring countries have resonated to his songs, such as those translated to Bahasa Indonesia and recently Mandarin.

* * *

If the criterion for the selection of National Artist is someone who best mirrors the Filipino soul and captures the Pinoy genius, in much the same way that NVM Gonzales, National Artist for Literature, captured the soul of the rural Filipino in his stories about Mindoro, then Father Honti is more than qualified. It is interesting to know that "Pananagutan" was written for a nun who was about to leave for a foreign mission; she chose the lines from St. Paul, "No One Lives for Himself Alone," as the theme of the invitation to the mission-sendoff. Few also know that Father Honti's "Ang Mabuting Pastol" was inspired by the heroism of two Good Shepherd sisters who gave up their places on a crowded lifeboat for other passengers during the Doña Paz sea tragedy.

* * *

If the criterion is the Filipino who best inspires other Filipinos to follow in his footsteps, in creative efforts in a given genre, Father Honti also qualifies, for he has inspired a whole generation of younger priest-composers to write Mass songs for the people. Among the second-generation songwriters are Nemesio Que, Danny Isidro and Fruto Ramirez.

Perhaps best known among the present crop of songwriters whom Father Honti inspired in a very direct way is a young Jesuit named Fr. Manoling Francisco. Francisco had just begun studying at the Ateneo de Manila when the first wave of Father Honti's songs was introduced in their school Masses. Manoling grew up with those songs. He wrote his first religious song in first year high school as an entry to a songwriting competition in 1979. The lyrics for that song, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," based on Isaiah 49, were the result of the collaboration of an entire class under the famed Prof. Onofre Pagsanghan, with Manoling composing the melody. That song not only won the competition but also quickly became a classic. First recorded by singer Basil Valdez, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan" won for both singer and composer six Cecil Awards from the local music industry.

The phenomenal success of that song prompted Manoling to write contemporary liturgical and inspirational songs. Over the last 20 years, he has composed over 150 songs, many of which, such as "Tanging Yaman," "Sa 'Yo Lamang," "Take and Receive" and "In Him Alone," are being sung all over the country ("Tanging Yaman" became the theme of a multi-award-winning movie of the same title). In recognition of his efforts and achievements, Father Manoling was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men.

* * *

When Father Honti first wrote his liturgical hymn in the 1960s, it was said that all he wanted to do was to come up with songs in the native languages that people could easily learn and sing at worship—songs which spoke of the people's simple and childlike yearnings for and aspirations toward God. He was born in Capiz, but he wrote his songs in Tagalog, the base of Filipino. Father Honti had no idea that in writing that first song and in teaching a Filipino Mass to San Jose seminarians, he was actually starting a whole tradition of religious and liturgical music in the Philippines.

To be sure, during the post-Vatican II years, Father Honti was not the only one who experimented with liturgical music in the vernacular. But as the concert literature put it, it was Father Honti who persisted in turning out song after song, each as popular as the previous one.

* * *

The late Jesuit historian, Fr. Horacio de la Costa, in his classic essay, once wrote that the Filipinos are poor but they are gifted with two jewels: their music and their faith. These two gifts find their expression in the Filipino's celebration of the Eucharist. Today, wherever Filipinos gather for worship, be it at the Manila Cathedral or a makeshift barrio chapel or a packed apartment in Spain or in Hong Kong, they join hearts and voices in songs of worship. Most of those songs were written by Father Honti, whose genius for capturing the Pinoy soul in liturgical music enabled those two jewels of the race—faith and music—to shine.

* * *

I hope the proper authorities will give Father Honti this honor of being declared National Artist very soon, while he is still around to appreciate it. Father Honti suffered a stroke some years back. He can now walk about, but his speech has been affected. After the concert, a beaming Father Honti was helped up the stage to acknowledge the tributes. He wanted very much to speak to the audience, but all he could say very clearly, was "Alleluia, Alleluia." Then he gave his priestly blessing.

More on language

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I HAD no idea what sort of tempest I had raised with the column on "Language and intimacy."

A distant cousin called to tell me that "Hunger of Memory," the slim autobiographical work by Richard Rodriguez that I'd referred to, was a reference work when she was taking an education course at the New School in New York. "How did you happen to find it?" she asked. Rodriguez's thesis, she said, had stirred passionate debate among her classmates, with some "condemning" the Mexican-American writer for giving up his native Spanish and thus losing the intimacy he once shared with his parents. Others, however, admired his honesty and frankness, saying Rodriguez had no choice if he was to be absorbed into the American mainstream.

The story of how I came upon "Hunger of Memory" actually begins days before the purchase. The Washington Post had been running a series on the "cultural divide" within a suburban high school whose population was predominantly Latino, but where much of the "power structures," such as the student government, sports and extracurricular clubs and even the advance classes, were dominated by white students. Newly arrived migrant students complained about being required to attend classes conducted in English that tackled matters that they'd already studied, in Spanish, years before. This set me wondering about the wisdom of bilingual education and if it only prolonged the feeling of exclusion of those outside the mainstream.

I also happened to interview a Fil-American activist, doing lobbying and political education work on the issue of toxic wastes in the former US bases, and she spoke of her long struggle to reconcile both sides of her dual heritage. After the interview, waiting for my companions to pick me up, I trawled Kramer's Books and Afterwords for interesting books and chanced upon "Hunger of Memory." Rodriguez's words suggested a way of putting my thoughts together in a coherent fashion.

* * *

DOES belonging within the American mainstream necessarily involve abandoning one's roots, specifically one's language of birth, and thereby, the culture which is inexorably part of you?

From the United States, Cheryl Dionaldo says it is possible, indeed desirable, to live (or speak) in both worlds. Coming to the Philippines as a teenager and marrying another Filipino migrant, Cheryl says the matter of language did not become an important issue in their household until the children came. "From the time our children were born, my husband and I made a conscious effort to raise them in Filipino," says Cheryl, but "at some point we noticed that they spoke less and less in Tagalog and began talking between themselves only in English...My husband, concerned that the children would eventually forget Tagalog, established the 'Tagalog only on weekends' rule. This meant that on weekends we used only Tagalog when speaking among ourselves, in or outside the house."

Today, their daughter and son are in college. "They speak Tagalog with the same ease and fluency as they do English. Our Filipino relatives and friends, especially those hearing them for the first time, are always amazed at their fluency in Tagalog as if this is so unusual."

But why should it? asks Cheryl. "I don't understand why children of Filipinos, whether raised in the Philippines or abroad, should not be taught to speak their own language or dialect. Speaking in one's native tongue brings with it more than intimacy. The uttered word, whether in Tagalog, Cebuano or any other native dialect, conveys our heritage and culture. In our language we express the sentiments, the romance, the values and the tradition of our own kind, intimate, exclusive, *malambing* (how do you say this in English?). I find it more unusual, an aberration in fact, for a brown-skinned, pug-nosed child to speak with an American twang."

* * *

ROCKY Ocampo reports a different experience. Though he grew up in Manila, his mother, who hails from Pangasinan, taught him her language and he ended up "having the best of both worlds," fluent in Tagalog among his friends and playmates, but able to talk to his mother in her first language.

He and his wife, both migrants to the United States, decided though to raise their children with English only. "However, they are telling us now that they want to learn Tagalog and they are envious of their cousins who are of the same age but were not born in the United States as they can speak Tagalog...My oldest also understands both Tagalog and Pangasinan although she cannot speak it. We are surprised sometimes, when my wife and I are talking in Pangasinan in the front seats of the car and my daughter responds in English from the back seat." Rocky asks rhetorically: "Are we delighted by our children's American accent? Of course, we are. But we are also thankful that they are proud of their heritage and they love everything Filipino, which is more than we can say about some Filipino acquaintances here in San Francisco whose kids have the same background as our kids. Some of these kids are ashamed of their Filipino roots and even go to the extent of telling the bold-faced lie that they are from Hawaii or are a mixture of Chinese, Spanish, etc."

* * *

MY COUSIN, as well as Ocampo and another reader, Gras Reyes, also chided me for referring to the language of Pangasinan as "Pangalatok." The proper name for the language is Pangasinan, they said. "Pangalatok" is a derogatory term, I was told.

Well, I used to think so, too. But our former columnist, Larry Henares, who himself traces his roots to Pangasinan, used "Pangalatok" constantly to refer to the language. I thus thought (mistakenly, it turns out) that "Pangalatok" had come to be generally accepted, in the same way that "Pinoy" has been adopted as a "nickname" for Filipinos.

Nice to know I can "blame" Coyang Larry for one other thing!

Historical attitudes

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AS THE 16TH century came to a close, three groups dominated the archipelago demographically: the Filipinos, who were the most numerous, the Chinese and the Spaniards. Of the three, the Spaniards were the smallest, being concentrated in Manila and the port of Cavite. In 1702 there were 400 Spaniards residents (with their families, they could have added up to some 2,000 individuals). A decade later priests and soldiers numbered 700 and 1,000, respectively. Spanish settlements outside Manila were concentrated in Cebu, Bicol, Cagayan Valley and most especially in the Ilocos. Very few settled in the Visayas.

The Chinese were always the most numerous foreigners and by the 18th century, they were viewed by the authorities as competing with the Filipinos in the interior commerce in the provinces, in agriculture and in the arts and crafts. A letter written in 1729 states: "...(The Chinese) own all the commercial stores, all the occupations and trades and all the foodstuffs and supplies from the meat to the fowls even the vegetables." (Apparently, certain attitudes had their origins centuries ago.)

According to the letter writer, by this time Filipinos were capable of providing the services traditionally rendered by the Sangleys. Aiming to redirect the situation, Gov. Fernando Valdes Tamon ordered that all non-Christian Chinese living in the provinces transfer to the Parian or the *alcaiceria* de Manila (a silk market in San Fernando, Binondo). Converted Chinese could live in Binondo or Sta. Cruz *extramuros* (outside the walls).

The Chinese countered that the inhabitants of Tondo, Cavite and other towns near Manila were laborers, fishermen or engaged in other occupations that could not be practiced if they lived secluded in the Parian, unlike bakers, weavers and brick-makers. The order of the governor was not carried out.

It was repeated in 1730, but again it had no effect.

Four years later a royal decree dictated that the consequence of deporting the Chinese who now numbered some 14,000 be studied. The Audiencia (Supreme Court) was in favor, but nothing was done. A judge by the name of Calderon Enriquez advocated that the Chinese be concentrated first in the Parian and then deported, but the suggestion was not carried out until the arrival in 1755 of Gov. Manuel de Arandia. His priority was to deport all non-Christian Chinese. A month later, the order was carried out. Many converted so that they could remain in the country.

After the *alcaiceria* was razed, the structure was rebuilt on the right bank of the Pasig near the wharf and under the guns of Fort Santiago. The building was finished in 1758, but Arandia died and new immigrants took the place of the residents who had been expelled. By 1762 there were 6,200 Chinese in Manila and the suburbs and many more in the provinces.

During the English occupation of Manila, the Chinese sided with the British. Thus when Seven Years War came to an end, the authorities reacted negatively and ordered them expelled, Christian bachelors included. Married men and their families were ordered sequestered in the Parian.

Since there were very few Chinese women in the country, some of the men married Filipinas and thus were able to stay. However residence permits were no longer issued and all traders who came had to return once their business was finished. The Audiencia did not make the royal order a priority with the excuse that there weren't enough ministers and too much work.

In 1773, 2,300 Chinese in Manila were deported, but there were negative consequences. Five years later, Gov. Basco y Vargas allowed a certain number in. In 1778 he decreed that the Christian Chinese could be readmitted but only up to 4,000. A preference was placed for laborers, weavers of silk and cotton, harvesters of silk, manufacturers of fine and ordinary linen and other occupations such as blacksmiths, iron mongers, miners, art teachers, those who knew to apply of varnish and lacquer. Workers in other fields were not allowed.

It turned out to be impossible to find 4,000 Chinese with such skills, and in order to fill the quota, non-Christians were allowed to enter. Basco suspended the entry when not even a thousand could be registered. Biased against them, the governor decreed that the Chinese were to devote themselves to agriculture for which they had little inclination.

Basco then ordered a silk market constructed within the walls called San Jose and had the Chinese living in the Parian transferred there. The king, however, vetoed the order and had the new silk market moved. The Chinese dispersed throughout the suburbs, but the Cabildo whose income came from the rents in the old Parian requested its reconstruction to house at least 1,000 Chinese, the number needed, according to them, to service and supply the capital. The king approved the request.

Besides deportations there were also massacres throughout the 17th century. As the century progressed, the uprisings became more severe and the repression more drastic.

It took longer for the wounds to heal. Three hundred years later the echoes reverberate.

Dream house

YOUNGBLOOD

Alexander Ther-en

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

MY siblings and I never liked our old ancestral house because it never looked as dignified as we imagined an ancestral house should be. Our house looks big from the outside, but in reality it doesn't have enough space to accommodate all the nine members of our family. There's no verandah to speak of, so you just go up a few steps to get into the living room, which must have lost its appeal forever. The small living space is divided by walls into box-like rooms. There are two bedrooms adjoining each other to the left of the main door. At the far end and to the right is the kitchen. The windows of each room have been almost completely eaten up by termites. In a few more years, I am quite certain the entire house will come crashing down.

One day not very long ago, Pam, the eldest among us children, brought home a wall poster of a really beautiful country house. It was one of those colonial houses, painted white with a green roof and brown shutters.

"I will build this house!" she proudly announced in front of all her brothers and sisters (our parents were then in church for their weekly Sunday devotion). We all smiled and took a deep breath, not because we were amazed by her declaration but because the house was truly breath-taking. We marveled at its magnificence and its stately form.

I couldn't bring myself to share my sister's wish because I was well aware that the odds were against us. I mean, it wasn't like we were financially stable. So I just thought instead, dream on, sis!

But then again I reckoned that even in our young lives we had already been deprived of life's simple pleasures so why couldn't we dream of living a life of luxury? It took a while, but I finally realized that my sister and my other siblings should be free to dream about anything no matter how elusive. There is always a chance, no matter how remote, that such a dream could turn into reality. And so I dreamed along.

It didn't take very long after she spoke about that dream house for Pam to leave our old ancestral house and seek her fortune in another city. More than that, she wanted to leave for another country since she didn't want to be slowed down by the sluggish pace of our economy. She felt if she stayed on, she would have white hair first before she could build her dream house. And she worked hard, really hard to attain her ambitions.

In the meantime, our house was getting older and turning to ruins. Some parts of the windowpane became rotten and others had already been replaced. The doors to the bedrooms were coming off their hinges. And there was nothing our parents could do to save the situation. Their salaries were hardly enough to cover the costs of our education, which was to them the better option.

There was no argument about that point, of course. They were right, and the rest of us just had to suffer in silence and continue dreaming of the dream house.

Then it was our oldest brother's turn to leave the house and look for fortune elsewhere. Still our dream house remained a dream. But we could live in it in our dreams, which was practically what we did all the time.

As the years passed, a really huge house was built directly across the street from our house. The huge white mansion of our new neighbors looked like the realization of our dream, but it wasn't ours.

Finally, it was my turn to seek my own fortune. I had finished college and I was determined to succeed, inspired by the idea of building something similar to the big house across the street. I was ready to go out into the real world and find my place in the sun.

But then some thing happened that led me to rethink my plans. On the eve of the new millennium, I saw the difference between dream and reality as I watched in horror while the big white mansion of our neighbor was reduced to ashes.

Talk going around town said the house was cursed. Some people said the tragedy was a form of punishment for its owners who were so arrogant, boastful and selfish that they never thought of paying homage to the patron saint of our barrio. Not even once, since they settled in our barrio, had they bothered to join the people in celebrating our fiesta. Perhaps they were never told that bad luck always struck those who spurned this old tradition of celebrating the fiesta. Their house was actually the third to go up in flames.

Actually, all these were mere speculations born out of superstition. It was faulty wiring that caused the fire that razed the mansion. The electrical circuits must have been overloaded on account of the numerous Christmas lights that they had installed in and out of the house and all over the yard. At daybreak when the fire was finally put out, all that was left of the place were some appliances that the family managed to bring out. Still those who live there could count themselves lucky that no one was killed or hurt in the fire.

I was there when it happened, and I witnessed the shock and the sadness in the faces of our once proud neighbors. It set me off to thinking about my sister and brother who were searching for fortune so that we could build our dream house.

From that day on, I no longer looked at our humble house with a measure of dismay. I have realized that what matters most isn't the shape of the house or the material out of which it's built but the shelter it provides especially on rainy days. I don't care anymore if our ancestral house is old for as long as we still have it. I feel secure under its roof and I will live in it while our dream house remains a dream.

Still my sister's declaration continues to ring in my ear: "I will build this house!" And I say yes, I will help build that house when the right time comes. In the meantime, our old ancestral house will be our home.

Alexander Ther-en, 21, has a bachelor's degree in mass communications major in journalism.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Bubbles

"The most that it will be able to do is create bubbles and suds just like what the Filipino people have been getting from this government."

—Kilusang Mayo Uno spokesperson Sammy Malunes, comparing the 'Gloria labandera' detergent to the country's situation

Disappointing campaign

"Heads should now roll but these should not be of the hostages but of military commanders who offer only explanations for their failures instead of accomplishments."

—Retired Gen. Ramon Montano, criticizing the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf

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Pinoy karma

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THERE'S an amusing passage in Amy Tan's novel, "The Hundred Secret Senses," where an older Chinese woman claims many "yin people" (Westerners) want to be reborn as Chinese. The proof of this popularity as an option for rebirth, she says, is China's large population.

That passage about reincarnation came back to me as I watched a recent "I-witness" episode on Channel 7 about being Filipino, or rather about how tiring it had become to be Filipino. One part of the program featured interviews around the question, "Would you want to come back as a Filipino?" with people, more or less split between "yes" and "no."

If I may do a retake on Amy Tan, I could argue that up there somewhere, wherever it is that souls hang around waiting for their rebirth, there's probably a long queue of souls clamoring to be reborn as Filipinos, or coming back to live in the Philippines. My "proof"? Why, we're close to 80 million souls now, and we have one of the world's highest population growth rates.

The question, however, is this: What kind of karma do you need to come back as a Filipino? Few Filipinos believe in reincarnation and the Filipino concept of karma, which is supposed to be the driving force behind rebirths, is quite negative. Erap built up a little harem and in the end, was replaced as president by a woman. People say Erap got his karma and other philanderers are forewarned, "*Sige, ma-karma ka, gaya ni Erap.*"

The Filipinized version of karma is quite punitive, a departure from the original concepts in Hinduism and Buddhism where karma refers to a cause-and-effect relationship. You sow what you reap; it's not considered a reward or a punishment by some supernatural being. If you're obsessed with sex then you could come back as a boar, literally the macho *barako* you always wanted to be. You're not being punished by any supernatural being, it's your macho-obsessed stream of consciousness that brings you back, your soul catapulting into a boar so you can get all you want as a sexual glutton.

In principle then, reincarnation is a choice. You're here because you want to. That's why ideally, you're supposed to cultivate a detachment from the world so you don't ever have to come back at all, as a Filipino, Chinese, Indian, American or whatever.

How come you got reborn as a Filipino? Maybe because you were Filipino in a previous life, or lives, and enjoyed it, making you come back for more. Maybe all your *barkada* came back as Filipinos. Maybe you joined the long, rowdy queue of souls for the Philippines simply because it was long. (You probably jumped the queue as well, proving you were worthy to be reborn as a Filipino.)

Maybe you didn't really want to be Filipino. Maybe you peeped out of the heavens and saw all these islands with beautiful beaches and didn't know a few thousand guys were also waiting to be reincarnated as Abu Sayyaf *bandidos,* crazy about beach resorts.

Karma can be "good" or "bad." When your actions are motivated by generosity, kindness or wisdom, then you generate *punna,* often loosely translated as merit but which really comes closer to a kind of auspicious purifying power that brings you more good in life, this one or future ones.

So, is being Filipino good or bad karma? I think it's all relative. I can imagine why some people think that being Pinoy is the result of terrible karma. But there are, too, Pinoys living in good times, in very good times, and if they believed in reincarnation, they'd strut around believing they had excellent karma.

If indeed you want to be reborn in a better life, then you're supposed to start generating good karma in this one. That means really being nice and not wishing that your enemies get reborn as fungi on someone's foot. (I picked that line from an Italian film.)

Good karma shouldn't be self-conscious. Whenever my friend Margie (yes, that Margie) does something good, she flutters her eyelashes and asks, "So do I get karmic points for being good?" "Nope," I reply, "it doesn't count when you're conscious about it, as in the way politicians try to get *pogi* points."

When you're Pinoy, this karma bit gets tricky because when we do things we tend to be conscious about what people think, or what we'll get out of it. Then, too, our Catholic upbringing reduces life to a never-ending cycle of rewards and punishments. We're good because we expect to get to heaven, or get a few years off from Purgatory, complete with a plaque of appreciation.

It's time to rethink karma. As the song goes (I think it was from "The Sound of Music"), if life's been looking up lately, maybe it's because you did something good as a kid, when you were still innocent and unaware of karma brownie points and photo opportunities for the press. And isn't there another song, too, about being good for goodness' sake? If we could just set our sights on doing that, maybe we just might produce better collective karma for the country. Then it'd be truly worthwhile coming back as a Filipino.

* * *

Comments to karma@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

Court shielding people's tormentors

THE RECENT ruling of the Supreme Court barring the Ombudsman from looking into the bank records of suspects in graft cases only shows how hopeless our justice system is. The Court ruled that banks cannot be required to submit records of accounts of their depositors to assist the Ombudsman in its graft inquiry.

But how can the Ombudsman gather sufficient evidence for a graft case to prosper when our own Supreme Court, in the guise of protecting the privacy of every person, prevents it right from the first stage of its investigation from performing its job more effectively?

As an ordinary citizen, I can say that the Supreme Court is largely responsible for the rotten condition of our justice system. This is the same Supreme Court that absolved Imelda Marcos, the same court that delays the decision on other Marcos cases and the cases against Danding Cojuangco. It is also the same Court that prevents the people from watching the Estrada trial live on television, fearing that it might prejudice Estrada's rights. But how about the right of the ordinary Filipino people like me to be informed of what's happening in the Sandiganbayan?

Most of us have forgotten how the Supreme Court absolved Imelda due to technicalities just a few months after Estrada assumed the presidency.

Graft and corruption is the root of all of what is happening in our country.

It all started with the Marcoses and lasted up to the time of Estrada. And now we have a Supreme Court that consistently protects the right of those people who caused our present misery.—**RAFAEL E. FADERA, Nishi Heights, 102-2 Jojyodoji Nishida-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan**

Northfield row enters healthier stage

I WISH to thank Rina Jimenez-David for giving a more balanced presentation of the issues in Paref-Northfield's transfer to its permanent site along Greenmeadows Avenue in Quezon City. (PDI, 7/4/01) I appreciate her suggestion for more trust and openness from both sides (proponents and opponents) and "to begin talking through venues other than streamers and lawsuits."

Some of us Northfield parents have been sorely tempted to put up streamers of our own, but we have been consistently reminded by the Northfield school administration to channel our energies into more sober dialogue. This perhaps is a clear manifestation of the inspiration from the life and teachings of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer that guides the spirit of the school.

Likewise, as Northfield parents, we have to be open to being reeducated into becoming what we want our children to be. If we wish to teach our children temperance and self-restraint, it has to start with our own personal struggles against tendencies to go into headlong collisions in solving our problems.

In the long run, cooler heads and a basic belief in the goodness of people prevail. This, we witnessed in our dialogue with David who was willing to listen to what we had to say.

We invite you to get to know more about Northfield and how it can truly be a venue for genuine people development (through its values education, home-school collaboration and scholarships for the poor) and thus, community development. And yes, all these "remain in the realm of plans and promises," as David mentioned, unless Northfield works hand in hand with the community it hopes to become part of.—**CATHERIN LANZONA, 126 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, QC**

Oreta bill a rehash of Erap's EO 81

CONTRARY to what Teresita S. Castillo, chief of staff of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, believes, I read in toto the provision of Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Oreta Bill which provides that "All functions, programs and activities of the DECS related to sports competition shall be transferred to the PSC. The programs for school sports...shall remain part of the basic education curriculum."

In attempting to refute our stand that the Oreta bill should be vetoed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Castillo failed to explain the difference between "(school) sports competition program" and "program for school sports." And I doubt if she can because these two are one and the same program.

The school sports competition program which the bill proposes to transfer from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to the Philippine Sports Commission consists of: (a) school intramural sports, (b) school district meets, (c) school division meets, (d) regional meets, and (e) Palarong Pambansa. How can the PSC which does not have any grassroots organization and qualified personnel implement these components of schools sports competition program?

The motives of the proponents of Chapter 3. Section 9 of the Oreta bill are suspect. When the implementing order of the bill is crafted, there is the possibility that the provision referring to "programs for school sports" which will remain with the DECS will include the back-breaking and thankless task of staging the school intramurals and the lower-level competitions leading to the national Palarong Pambansa. The Palarong Pambansa and international competitions, the cream of school sports program, will be given to the PSC.

This is exactly what transpired in the implementation of E.O. 81, issued by former President Joseph Estrada which even its proponents and supporters now want to be repealed.

In a Senate hearing attended in by members of the PSC board, Chair Carlos Tuason admitted that the PSC cannot manage the Palarong Pambansa because it already "has so many other problems." (The Senate record of the meeting will attest to this.) In that same meeting, the members of the board assured Senators Robert Jaworski and Franklin Drilon that they would submit a resolution to then President Estrada recommending the repeal of E.O. 81. Now comes the Oreta bill which will sustain the provisions of the order.—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, QC**

Hapao is part of Ifugao

THIS has reference to the article published in a supplement last June 18, "What we did in the last days of summer," by Charles Buban. Accompanying the article was a photo of the Hapao Rice Terraces with a caption that read, "The majestic Hapao Rice Terraces were among the oldest structures in Banaue..."

May I inform you that Hapao is no longer a part of Banaue, as per Batas Pambansa Bilang 337 dated Jan. 19, 1983 which provided for the transfer of some barangays from Banaue to Ifugao. One of these barangays is Hapao, which now belongs to the municipality of Hungduan in the province of Ifugao.—**ANDRES B. DUNUAN SR., mayor, Hungduan, Ifugao**

Frequent changes in Senate leadership

I WILL bet my last peso that whoever will be chosen Senate president will not last for 18 months.

Why? Because just like his predecessors, he will be an unwilling victim of the so-called "coup d'état" that has been "institutionalized," so to speak, in that august body. Everybody agrees to disagree with this "bad practice" because it is counter-productive and will further harm our already damaged economy.

In order to prevent this unnecessary coups, I would like to suggest that we adopt the practice in the United States where the vice president automatically becomes the presiding officer of the Senate. Of course, we cannot just do this unless we amend the Constitution.

Are you listening, future delegates to the Constitutional Convention?—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

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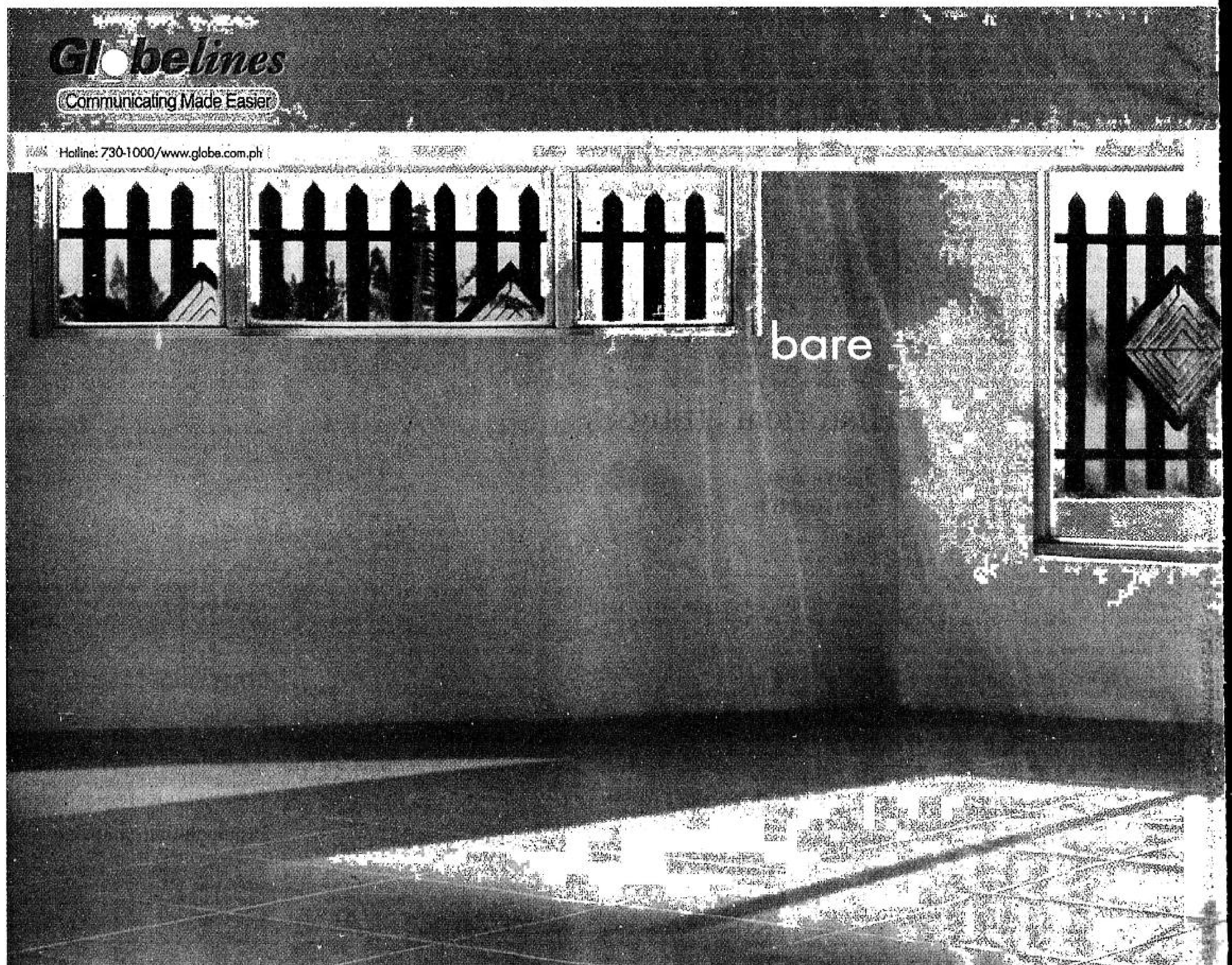

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UN: Rich nations block technology flow to poor ones

MEXICO CITY—The world's richest countries are holding back scientific breakthroughs that could help eradicate hunger and stamp out poverty, a UN report says.

The 11th annual Human Development Report, scheduled to be released in Mexico City on Tuesday, argues that rich nations are hindering development and distribution of cutting-edge medicine by quibbling over prices, and says discussion of genetically engineered food is one-sided.

"The current debate in Europe and the United States over genetically modified crops mostly ignores the concerns of the developing world," the report says, adding that crops altered to produce higher yields could revolutionize farming in Africa, Latin America and across the underdeveloped world.

Critics view genetically modified foods as potential health hazards, arguing that not enough research has been done to determine whether they are safe. But the report maintains that genetically altered food could be an answer to feeding the world's hungry.

It also concludes that the developed world's push to block the use of controversial agricultural technology once widely available has hurt poor nations. It cites the campaign to ban the poisonous pesticide DDT, which has left tropical countries battling a new breed of Malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

The report also faults wealthy nations for driving up international prices of prescription drugs by objecting to paying high prices.

"The citizens of rich countries must understand that it is only fair for people in developing countries to pay less for medicines and other products," the report says.

Mark Malloch Brown, head of the UN Development Fund, said in a recent interview that the report was "intended to challenge prevailing skepticism about technology."

Despite the debate raging over genetically modified food, the report urges governments to spend more on research and development of biotechnology.

The report ranked 174 countries based on income, education, life expectancy and health care, awarding Norway the world's highest standard of living.

"This is a recognition that our government combines a good welfare system for all people with a dynamic economy," Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stolenberg said.

"With a good welfare state you have people who are willing to take risks they can't take elsewhere," Stolenberg said. "You have well-educated people with good health who are more productive and create a more dynamic economy." *AP*

Condit hit for withholding info on Levy disappearance

WASHINGTON—The US congressman caught up in the case of a missing intern withheld crucial information from police and should be a suspect in her disappearance, a former federal prosecutor said on Sunday.

Police questioned Rep. Gary Condit, the 53-year-old Democrat from California, for a third time and said on Saturday he had answered all their questions and was not a suspect in the disappearance of Chandra Levy, who was last seen on April 30.

But Joseph diGenova, a former US attorney for the District of Columbia, told the "Fox News Sunday" program he believed Condit should be a suspect because he did not disclose his intimate relationship with the intern.

DiGenova, a Republican who handled many high profile cases, including that of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, also said he was "absolutely stunned" that city police had not searched Condit's apartment.

"I cannot believe that that was not one of the first things that police did not ask him to do, especially in light of the fact that the congressman obviously lied to them in the first two interviews, and it wasn't until the third interview that he finally told the truth and admitted that he had a relationship with this missing person," diGenova said.

CONDIT

"He withheld that information from the police over a number of weeks. It's absolutely outrageous. It is indefensible," DiGenova said. ". . . He should be a suspect, under all the facts and circumstances," he added.

On CNN's "Late Edition," former US Attorney General Richard Thornburgh also asserted Condit had "not been completely forthcoming" until the third interview and said the delay likely damaged the investigation.

"That's two months later, all that time has been lost," said Thornburgh, who led the Justice Department during the first Bush administration.

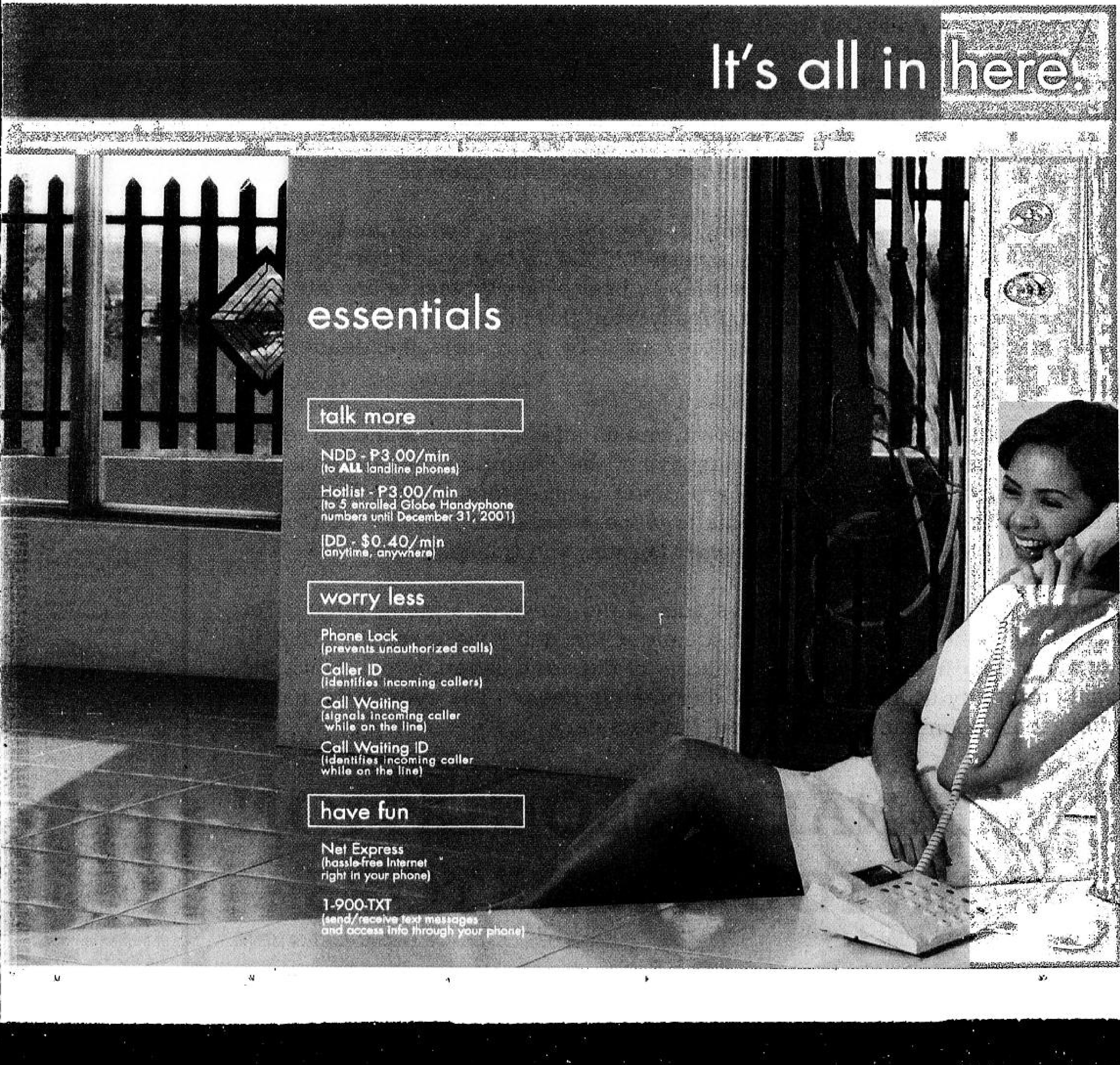
Though police would not comment on the nature of the relationship between the congressman, who is married, and the 24-year-old intern, Levy's aunt said on Friday Condit was involved in a romantic relationship with Levy.

It was widely reported that Condit acknowledged to police investigators on Friday evening he had an affair with Levy that was continuing at the time she disappeared. But Abbe Lowell, Condit's attorney, declined on Sunday to describe the relationship between the congressman and the intern but asserted Condit had been completely forthcoming to police.

"The congressman has answered their questions each time to the best of his ability," Lowell told ABC's "This Week."

Lowell also said Condit has not been subpoenaed for anything by police nor had authorities asked to search his apartment.

"If they need something that we can help them with, we'll get it to them," he said. "But they haven't asked us for anything at this point." *Reuters*



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AN APPEAL TO DOTC SECRETARY PANTALEON ALVAREZ

We are writing on behalf of the Filipino people, the local companies operating in the airport, and the airlines that fly to Manila and beg you to correct the dubious NAIA 3 contract to avert a national embarrassment before the eyes of the world.

We understand in 1997, as MIAA senior officer, you were involved in drafting the original concession agreement between PIATCO and the Philippine government. Over the years, your relationship with PIATCO's chief proponent has significantly deepened and this could make it very difficult for you to be objective in resolving the issues at hand.

Nevertheless, here are several preliminary facts that you should objectively consider:

1. The NAIA 3 contract is illegal. Since it was awarded through an unsolicited BOT, the government cannot guarantee the loans. But DOTC Undersecretary Alan Tan says the government has guaranteed PIATCO's loans and will have to assume all obligations to foreign lenders if PIATCO defaults in its payments.

2. The contract was changed three times by the Erap administration to favor PIATCO. This obviously makes a mockery out of our BOT law, the very law we use to lure foreign investors.

3. Your PIATCO friend has used this illegal contract to bully and intimidate foreign airlines into contracting with his own service company, a practice that goes against a level playing field which is essential in making our country conducive to business growth. This is also contrary to the spirit of transparency which your fellow cabinet members are trying to foster.

4. We have asked your good office several times for a copy of the complete set of contracts and their multiple amendments since these are public documents, but we have not received any response. Why? Are DOTC officials trying to hide something?

Mr. Secretary, your fellow cabinet members like Sec. Mar Roxas, Sec. Vince Perez, Sec. Lito Camacho, Vice President and Sec. Teofisto Guingona and Sec. Dick Gordon, not to mention our own President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, have made it their mission to enhance the reputation of the Philippines abroad. To attract foreign investments and get this country on its feet, they know we need to uphold the policy of transparency and an even playing field and show that our government officials are fair and just. We pray you will find the strength to follow their example.

Several billion dollar companies from Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, U.A.E., Malaysia, Germany and the United States, invested in the NAIA service companies in good faith. They are very upset with your friend's heavy-handed tactics and are now planning to take retaliatory action. Do you really want this matter to explode into an international crisis when you can easily prevent it by your objective leadership and fairness?

Mr. Secretary, we appeal to you to sit down with all affected parties and carve out an agreement that is fair to all Filipino taxpayers, the Philippine government, the foreign airlines and the companies who are direct competitors of your friend. We would welcome civic groups and the media to witness our dialogue. We don't want to make life difficult for anybody. We just want fairness and transparency.

It is time we learn from the destructive acts of the previous administration. For the sake of future generations, let us not squander the gains we made in EDSA II. You cannot allow your friend to sabotage efforts of the administration to achieve the international credibility which our country desperately needs. The eyes of the nation and the international community are on you, Mr. Secretary.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

OAU out, African Union upcoming

LUSAKA, Zambia—More than 40 African heads of state gathered Sunday in Lusaka for a summit that will bury the Organization of African Unity and see the closer-knit African Union rise in its place.

About 800 ruling party activists greeted the arriving leaders at the airport outside Lusaka with singing and dancing as Zambian President Frederick Chiluba spent hours welcoming them to the three-day summit that begins Monday.

The African Union, first envisioned in 1999 by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, is to be loosely modeled on the European Union and expected to be stronger than the OAU ever was during its 38-year existence.

Its charter includes plans for an African central bank, a court of justice, a single currency and a parliament.

In a document released ahead of the summit, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim said the transformation gave hope for "the rise of a stronger and united continent."

"We have no other option but to remain together because separately none of us can make it, and individual linkages with the outside world are not viable," Salim said.

The OAU will undergo a yearlong transition before transforming itself in the union by next year's summit in South Africa.

The OAU, which served an important role in Africa, had to change, said its spokesperson, Desmond Orjiako. Its charter did not address important topics such as human rights, women's issues and globalization, he said.

"We don't see the OAU as a failure. As far as we are concerned the OAU was a huge success in its own right," he said.

Initially, the difference between the two organizations will mostly be a name change, said Jakkie Cilliers, director of the South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies who attended a high-level OAU meeting that directly preceded the summit. *AP*

Southeast Asia smoke haze back

JAKARTA—The dense smoke haze which blanketed parts of Indonesia and its neighbors for months three years ago is beginning to choke regional skies again, officials said yesterday.

The smoke has been returning to parts of Borneo and Sumatra as well as southern Thailand.

"Dense smoke haze has returned over Pontianak but only during the nights, while during daytime, visibility returns to normal," said the head of the West Kalimantan province's environmental impact management office, Idrin from the provincial capital of Pontianak.

"The dangerous level, with high toxic presence, is now between 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. but by around 7 a.m., the haze usually has thinned again," Idrin said.

"The haze appears to have been carried by winds from the south-southeast."

Muhammad Khaeron of the meteorology office in Pontianak said low visibility from the haze had already delayed the landing of one commercial flight from Jakarta by some 45 minutes early yesterday.

Khaeron said the haze in Pontianak, which had thickened in the past 10 days, was worse at night because of the presence of mist.

Haze has also returned to Riau, one of the Indonesian provinces on Sumatra island worst hit by forest and ground fires in 1997-98. *AFP*

S. Korea president snubs Japan envoys over textbook

SEOUL—President Kim Dae-jung refused to meet a high-level Japanese delegation yesterday in a show of anger with Tokyo's refusal to revise textbooks that critics say whitewash Japan's wartime atrocities.

The move by Kim highlighted a widening rift between the two neighboring countries, which share a thriving trade relationship and will cohost the World Cup soccer tournament next year.

Japan angered Asian neighbors by approving eight controversial middle school history textbooks in April, including one by nationalist scholars who deny Japan committed documented atrocities during World War II.

In June, South Korea asked Japan to revise 35 textbook passages that it believes gloss over atrocities committed during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910-1945.

South Korea was upset by failure in those textbooks to mention tens of thousands of Korean and other Asian women who were forced to serve as sexual slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Japan responded Monday by informing Seoul that it can revise only two of the 35 controversial passages.

In its reply to South Korea and China, which had also demanded changes, Japan's Education Ministry rejected other revisions because "no clear-cut errors" were found, said ministry official Daisuke Saito.

"We responded with good faith within the scope of the textbook screening system," said Tatsuya Ohtsuki, chief of the ministry's textbook division.

The Japanese response was conveyed by Terusuke Terada, Japan's ambassador to South Korea, and a delegation dispatched by Japan's three-party ruling coalition.

The Japanese delegation, consisting of the secretaries-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, the New Komeito party and the New Conservative Party, flew to Seoul on Sunday.

However, President Kim turned down their request for a meeting.

The presidential Blue House said Kim could not meet the visitors due to a "conflicting schedule," a diplomatic term often used to reject an unwanted meeting.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing "deep disappointment and regret" over the Japanese decision.

"In light of such an attitude on the part of the Japanese government, we are compelled to question whether Japan values the ties of friendship and goodwill with neighboring countries and is willing to play an active role for global peace and stability," the statement said.

The row is a setback for Kim, who visited Japan in 1998 and pledged to forge friendly relations. Partly motivated by their perceived common threat from North Korea, the two countries held joint military exercises for two years.

Upset by the textbook controversy, South Korea canceled this year's joint exercise in June and is now reconsidering a schedule to open its market wider to Japanese cultural imports such as music and films. *AP*

Koizumi to US: Control your troops

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday called on the United States to impose stricter control over its forces after the arrest of a US airman suspected of raping an Okinawan woman.

"Such an incident should never happen again," Koizumi told US ambassador Howard Baker during a 15-minute meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo, according to a Japanese foreign ministry official.

"I would like to request tighter discipline and guidance to soldiers as well as the thorough implementation of rules," the premier was quoted as saying.

"It is important that we closely hold discussions with the United States," Koizumi said.

The ambassador, who was only sworn into his post in late May, said US President George W. Bush hoped to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

"I told the prime minister that President Bush is deeply grieved by the incident," Baker told reporters after the meeting.

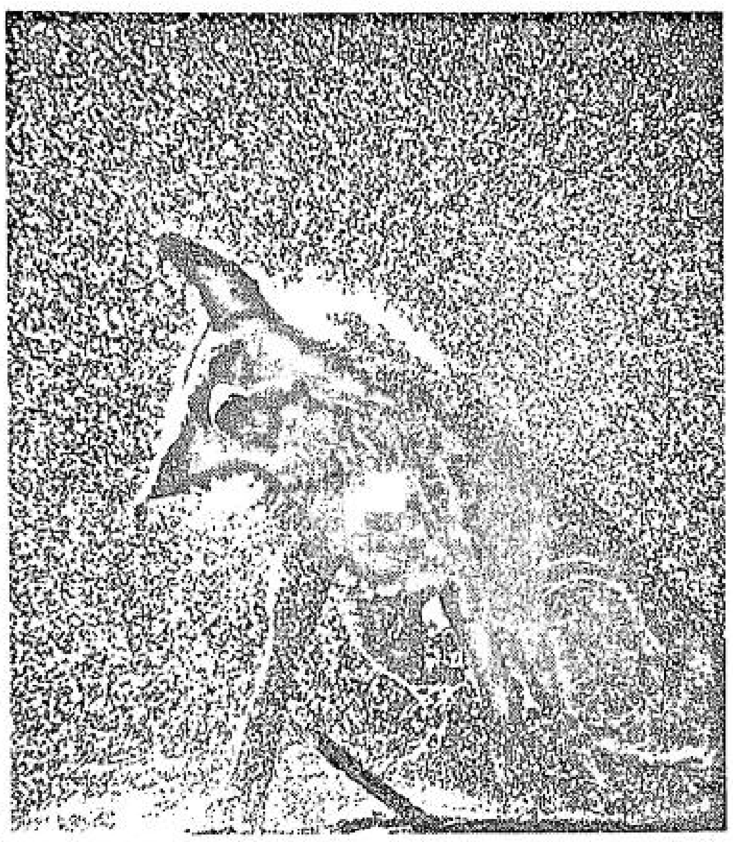
"It is my hope to visit Okinawa personally sometime in the near future," the ambassador said.

He added that a bond between Bush and Koizumi built at last month's Camp David summit had helped to prevent the alleged rape from overly harming relations between the United States and its closest Asian ally.

"There is no doubt that a personal relationship, which was built between Prime Minister Koizumi and President Bush at the US-Japan summit, contributed to the resolution of this issue," Baker was quoted by the ministry official as telling Koizumi.

The alleged rape took place on June 29, just a day before Koizumi and Bush met. The US president expressed regret, but Washington bided its time in responding to Japanese demands for the handover of the suspect.

Air force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24, was eventually arrested by Japanese police on the southern island of Okinawa on Friday, after Tokyo had stepped up diplomatic pressure. *AFP*



DOG DAY REUTERS

A dog shakes off water after a swim in a flooded quarry site near the Czech village of Kosova Hora July 8 as temperatures rose to 30 degrees Centigrade over the weekend.

More racial violence breaks out in UK city

BRADFORD, England—The northern English city of Bradford was quiet early yesterday after an Indian restaurant, an Asian-owned petrol station and a white-owned bar were attacked in a second night of racial violence.

"About 10-15 white youths armed with baseball bats and bricks smashed windows and took the till," said the manager of the petrol station, which is close to the restaurant. Police reported a small fire at a white-owned pub in the city.

The overnight violence was on a smaller scale than the race riots which rocked the city on Saturday night, injuring 120 police in some of the worst street violence seen in Britain for years.

"It's generally very quiet," a police spokesperson said.

No injuries were reported in the latest violence, which broke out in the northern Greengates area despite a heavy police presence across the city. Many officers were wearing riot gear and were equipped with shields and batons.

Charred vehicles, smashed windows and burnt-out buildings marked the streets of the Manningham district, also in the north of the city, after Saturday night's rioting. Thirty-six people were arrested in the violence.

During nine hours of rioting by around 1,000 youths—mainly Bengalis and Pakistanis from the city's 70,000-strong Asian community—police came under attack from crossbows, flares, sledgehammers and petrol bombs.

Cars were set on fire and shops looted. Police and local people said a hard core of around 150 rioters stole cars, drove them recklessly at police and members of the public and then torched them in the street. *Reuters*

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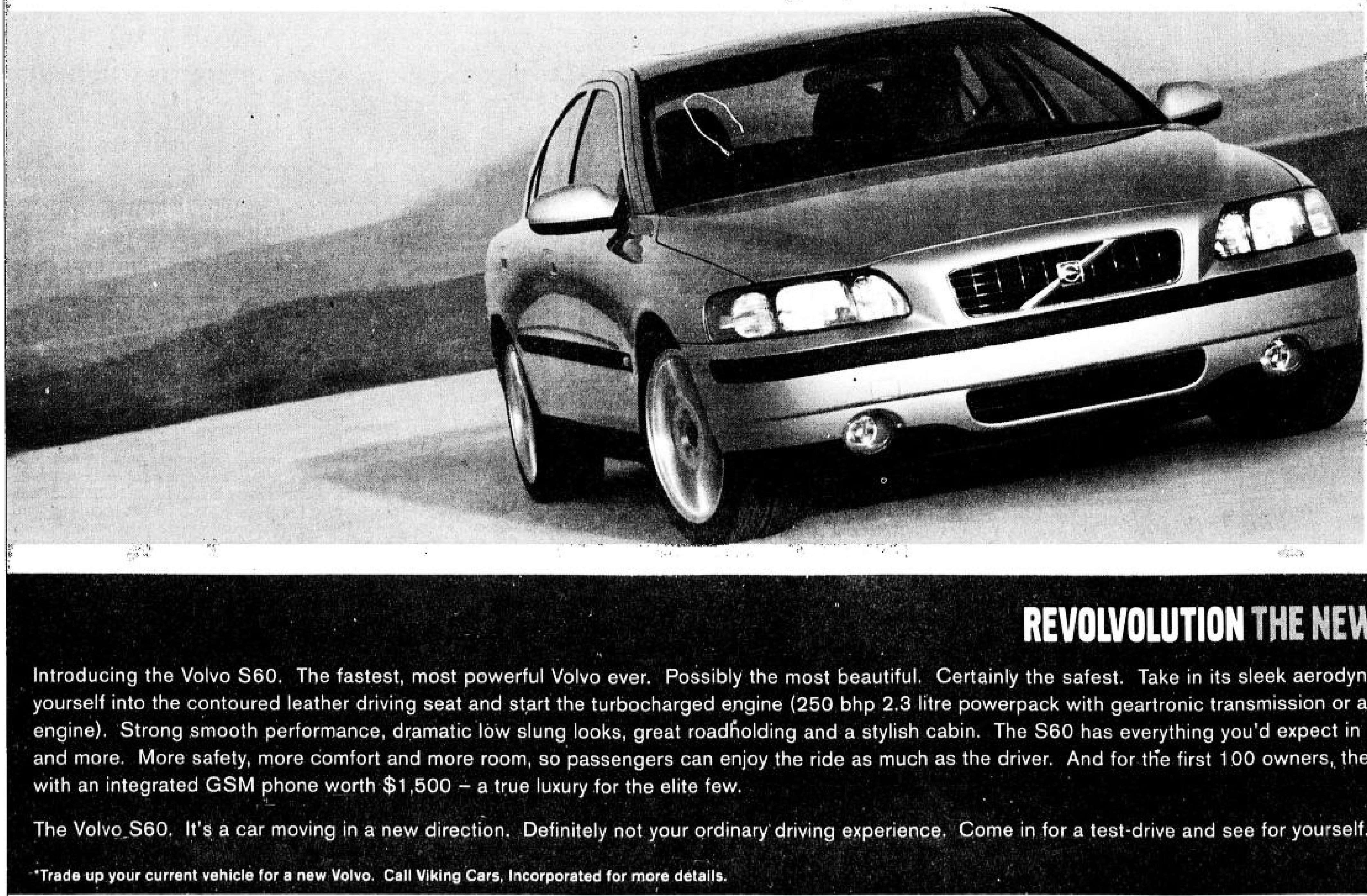

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Peace zone projects OKd

DAVAO CITY—The Special Zone of Peace and Development Social Fund Executive Committee (Szopad) on Friday approved about P10.5 million worth of projects for war-affected areas in Mindanao. Among the projects approved are four Madrasah buildings, nine warehouses, 17 solar dryers, a barangay health station and a spring development system for the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. Communities in Zamboanga and Cotabato cities are included as project beneficiaries. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army hunts NPAs

PIÑAN, Zamboanga del Norte—The military here is conducting counterinsurgency operations against the New People's Army, which has reportedly become more active in the province. Col. Estrellito Romero, commander of the Army's 101st Infantry Brigade, said rebel movements were monitored in Godod and Jose Dalman towns. Sources claimed that the rebels are trying to gain "bargaining power" in the peace talks. *Bert Laput, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 bolt jail

BULACAN, Bulacan—Four prisoners at the municipal jail here took advantage of a heavy downpour July 1 and escaped. Renato Concepcion, who is facing rape charges, was later arrested in his house in Barangay Bagumbayan here. Police are hunting three other inmates identified as Lazaro Cordero and Marlon Estaffa, both charged with robbery, and Virgilio de la Cruz, who was charged with theft. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Old man hunted

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Police here are hunting an 80-year-old man who allegedly stabbed and killed his neighbor over a family dispute in Barangay Libtong here Monday. Francisco Pancho was charged with homicide and frustrated homicide along with his son-in-law, Manuel Postero, 51, who is now detained at the municipal jail here. The suspects allegedly stabbed brothers Nestor and Joel Tumanang after they were attacked. Nestor died instantly while Joel is still critical. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected reb slain

OBANDO, Bulacan—A suspected New People's Army collector and a fishpond operator were killed while three others were wounded in a shootout in Barangay San Pascual here Monday. Lando Marquez, 36, a suspected NPA collector, shot and killed Crisanto Marquez, 60, when he refused to pay a P2,000 monthly tax. The victim's children—Christopher, Christian and Freddie—retaliated and gunned down Lando Marquez. Christopher was wounded while his two brothers fled. Two other children were hit by stray bullets. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over extreme Northern and Northeastern Luzon.

source: pagasa

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HI 31° Lo 23°
Baguio
HI 23° Lo 18°
Tuguegarao
HI 29° Lo 23°
Laoag
HI 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone
HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay
HI 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi
HI 30° Lo 24°
Bacolod
HI 31° Lo 24°
Roxas
HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu
HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban
HI 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos
HI 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga
HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro
HI 31° Lo 22°
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HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/10/01

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com .ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Visayas Bureau
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Hospital fire kills 2 men, including surgery patient

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Two persons died early yesterday during an hour-long fire that gutted portions of the main building of the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) in Mandurriao, this city.

Raymundo Camacho, 34, died on the operating table while doctors failed to revive Ramon Ybiernas, 60, who suffered a heart attack when the fire broke out.

The deaths occurred at the height of the panic when flames engulfed the hospital's old library, its record section and its kidney unit where a dialysis machine was located.

Dr. Jose Mari Fermin, director of the 400-bed WVMC, said damage to hospital equipment was estimated at P9 million.

Chief Insp. Mumar Pama of the Mandurriao police station said his office received a fire alarm around 5:30 a.m. The fire was controlled an hour later.

An explosion preceded the fire that started at the hospital library on its mezzanine floor where old records and medical charts are being kept. The fire quickly spread to the medical records section, the kidney unit and a portion of Fermin's office below the old library.

After the fire alarm was sounded off, Fermin said the hospital's fire brigade tried to fight the flames with fire extinguishers and was able to control the fire.

Camacho, a stabbing victim, was being operated on when the fire broke out. For fear of their lives and of the patient's, the surgical staff decided to evacuate the operating room on the second floor and move to the emergency room on the ground floor. Camacho died during the transfer.

Ybiernas was at the hospital to accompany his wife, Enriquieta, the former chief of clinic of the WVMC who was undergoing dialysis. Ybiernas was earlier seen assisting patients fleeing the fire. He later suffered a heart attack, probably after inhaling thick smoke that enveloped the hospital's main building, said Fermin.

Witnesses told radio reporters that hospital patients and their companions rushed to exit points when the fire broke out. Other people in the hospital were seen smashing glass jalousies and breaking doors to get out of the building.

In a rush of adrenaline, convalescent patients got up and ran outside, lugging their pillows and intravenous fluid bottles with them. Nurses and hospital personnel said they made sure that no patient was left in the rooms threatened by the fire.

Eight patients in the intensive care unit and four from the neo-natal intensive care unit were moved to the emergency room during the fire. Incoming patients were turned away.

Firetrucks and ambulances from other hospitals rushed to the WVMC to await orders to move patients to safety.

As of 10 p.m. yesterday, electricity and telephone lines were restored at the hospital, except in the operating room. Patients returned to their rooms after hospital staff had disinfected the smoke-filled rooms.

The hospital was also checking if the heavily drenched dialysis machine, which was donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, is still working.

Army accused of rights abuse in Basilan

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Militant organizations here and in Zamboanga City said the military's operation against the Abu Sayyaf has resulted in violation of human rights of the civilians.

Even a religious leader connected with the Office of Muslim Affairs agreed that the government's bounty offer for the arrest of Abu Sayyaf leaders and members has triggered these violations.

"This (reward) system created more problems (because) it has made the lives of innocent Muslims miserable," Ustadz Sheik Miraji Juaini, an OMA development officer, said.

Mujiv Hataman of the Kahapan Foundation—Moro Human Rights Center (Kahapan-MHRC) here said the bounty offer led some people to just point to civilians as Abu Sayyaf members.

Another militant group said the anti-Abu Sayyaf operations in Basilan drove residents into paranoia, suspecting almost every individual as member of the bandit group.

"Distrust runs high among the victims. They feel suspicious of strangers, even relief workers and caregivers," Balay Mindanaw, an NGO working for the refugees, said in a statement.

It said this distrust also led to indiscriminate identification of civilians as members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Kahapan-MHRC said a total of eight persons were killed, nine persons arrested, seven missing and two others were beaten up either by the military or police since the start of anti-Abu Sayyaf operations on June 2.

Hataman said their records still did not include the arrest of suspected Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga City and in Metro Manila.

"These harassment and violations started after the Lamitan siege, when the military (increased) its force to about eight battalions," Hataman said.

"As in Sulu, the military thinks that all Basileños and Muslims in other parts of the country are all Abu Sayyaf," he added.

Kahapan-MHRC said since June 2, Nursallah Ibid of Barangay Calut Tuburan has been missing.

On June 5, Genies Marlon de la Cruz and Jul Pawaki of Lamitan disappeared while Kasim Ampoyong and three other companions failed to return home after they were invited by camouflage-wearing uniforms suspected to be military men on June 6.

Earlier, Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr., denied reports that the military was randomly arresting suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

"The identities of the suspects are double-checked and the military observes due process to ensure that we will not violate the rights of any individual," Camiling said.

The militant groups said a total of eight persons were killed because of their alleged ties with the Abu Sayyaf.

On June 10, Hassan Liongan and Lukman Alih and three others were apprehended, blindfolded and allegedly shot dead by elements of the 37th Special Forces and nine members of the local militia in a checkpoint in Upper Maligue here.

The NGOs identified the military officers as a Sergeant Martinez and a Corporal Luna of the 37th SF. *Julie Alipala-Inot with reports from Allan Nawal and Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF told to rescue Chinese

COTABATO CITY—Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Salamat Hashim has issued a directive to his field commanders to help in the immediate recovery of an abducted Chinese national in North Cotabato.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, quoted Hashim as saying the MILF decided to help in the rescue of the Chinese on humanitarian grounds.

He said reports reaching the rebel group indicated that Zhang Zhong Quiang, manager of the China Import-Export Technologies (Citec), was brought by his captors to South Cotabato.

Zhang was seized in Matalam, North Cotabato last month allegedly by Filipino co-workers in the P3 billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project to force the Citec to leave.

Army Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, earlier said this was admitted by one of Zhang's abductors who was arrested.

Kabalu said MILF field commanders in South Cotabato and nearby areas are scouring areas where the guerrillas could be keeping Zhang.

He did not provide a timetable for Zhang's rescue but Kabalu said the rescue effort could also help convince the government that the MILF was sincere in the ongoing peace talks.

Police sources said Citec had been negotiating with the MILF for the release of Zhang in exchange for an undetermined amount of "board and lodging fee."

Robbers kill 3 in heist in Cabanatuan

CABANATUAN CITY—Three persons, one of them a businessman, were killed Sunday night when robbers broke into a four-story building in Barangay Zulueta here, police said.

Police identified the victims as businessman George Remperas, 35; Rachel Busalpa, 19; and Myrin Dig, 5. Busalpa and Dig were nieces of the live-in partner of Remperas. Remperas suffered 12 stab wounds in different parts of the body and contusions caused by blows from a hard object.

The two other victims were bludgeoned to death with the use of a wooden club, police said.

Supt. Laverne Manangbao, police chief here, said the police have two suspects in the killing. Both are reportedly helpers in the auto supply shop owned by Remperas.

One of them, identified as Angelito Graciano, 26, of Malita, Davao del Sur, was arrested by the police. The other suspect, identified as Eduardo Poster, 20, of Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur, escaped.

A police report said the two suspects first struck Remperas with a wooden object while he was on the stairs going up to the third floor to retire for the night.

He was stabbed repeatedly with the use of a knife.

The suspects went to the second floor where they found the two other victims. The two were clubbed to death. The suspects then proceeded to the third floor where Myrna Bote, a live-in partner of Remperas, who was nursing her baby, was staying.

She reportedly pleaded for her life and that of her baby while telling the suspects that she did not have money in the house.

It was at this juncture that police operatives SPO3 Julio Menor and PO2 Abraham Rafanan Jr. arrived and collared Graciano.

The policemen were reportedly alerted by a maid of Remperas. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Senate committee takes Agno folk's side in fight against cement plant

By YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

AGNO, Pangasinan—Residents opposing a multibillion-peso cement plant complex here have found allies in the Senate.

The Senate committee on environment and natural resources asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel the environmental compliance certificate issued to the proposed Agno cement and quarry project.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski, also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to censure officials of the DENR's environmental management bureau (EMB) for "failing to discern their role in this undertaking."

The EMB granted the ECC with 55 conditions to Taiwan-based Goldsun Corp., Nihon Cement Corp. of Japan and GML Corp., a Filipino entity, the project proponents. The project includes a cement plant, a quarry project, a power plant and a pier.

When it lapsed on March 29, the ECC was extended to another two years by former acting Environment Secretary Joemari Gerochi.

Last month, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez told Agno residents that he suspended the ECC pending a review of its extension.

In its report, the Senate committee said "mere compliance with legal procedural requirement does not take away the function of government officials to be more circumspect."

It added: "After all, they are given the delicate task of balancing the interests of various stakeholders guided by their mission-vision of preserving the last remaining natural sanctuaries of this country."

The committee also reminded the executive offices of the government that "the social acceptability of a project should be given paramount consideration, even as no endeavor is successful, if many people will be marginalized and their health and future compromised."

This town facing the China Sea was chosen by the proponents for the cement plant complex project because it is rich in limestone, the main raw material for the manufacture of cement.

A pier would also be built here for the easy transport of cement outside of the country.

Residents, however, opposed the project, saying it was anti-people, anti-poor and destructive to the environment. They said the port and wastewater from the plant would endanger the environment while the town's rivers would be heavily silted by quarry operations.

The residents also said the plant would run counter with the town's land use plan and Pangasinan's physical framework plan, which declared the entire western Pangasinan as an eco-tourism area.

The residents also raised these other issues:

- Barangay Macaboboni, the project site, has been classified as an integrated forestry zone with certificates of stewardship contract (CSC) awarded to 107 residents.
- The contracts were spuriously cancelled and the land was given to the project proponents.
- Mining and forestry laws were violated to accommodate the project. For example, the DENR's mines and geosciences bureau issued a mining exploration permit to the GML even if quarrying and mining activities are prohibited in areas declared as integrated social forestry zones. The permit covers 1,256 hectares.
- An ECC was issued without archeological clearance from the National Museum, even if Agno is rich in paleontological and archeological sites.
- The proposed open-pit quarry would result in the possible loss of valuable topsoil, making vegetation nearly impossible.

Goldsun, however, countered that the 55 conditions of the ECC "are reasons enough to admit that necessary environmental guarantees are safely instituted."

The proponents also cited a town resolution reclassifying parcels of land situated in Barangay Macaboboni from agricultural to industrial.

Drought remains threat to S. Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Southern Mindanao remains vulnerable to production shortages because of the prolonged dry season, prompting the Department of Agriculture to provide the farm sector with other options.

Francisco Agustin, administrative division chief of the DA in the region, said irrigated rice areas which are experiencing shortages of water supply during the growing period will shift to production of corn and legumes.

Agustin said the department was also ready to provide infrastructure, support services and technology interventions to help farmers cope.

These include additional shallow tube wells, cloud seeding operations and the rehabilitation of irrigation systems, provision of standby pesticide in case of outbreak of pests and root crops planting materials for uplanders and lumads.

Agustin said available funds for the mitigation of the effects of a prolonged dry season are P21.4 million for rice farmers and 47.8 million for corn.

There are 91,263 hectares planted to rice and 120,849 hectares where corn is grown in southern Mindanao.

Of the region's provinces, South Cotabato is the most vulnerable, followed by Davao del Sur, Sarangani, Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte, Agustin said. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

19 in jeep hurt in mishap

LEGAZPI CITY—Nineteen passengers were reported in critical condition after suffering fractured bones and serious injuries the jeep they were riding in rammed a signboard in Nabua, Camarines Sur Sunday, a report reaching the police regional office here said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Bicol police chief, said the jeep came from Libon, Albay and was bound for Manila when it lost its brakes and hit a signboard on the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Tandaan, Nabua, Camarines Sur.

The injured passengers were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Delfin said the speeding jeep lost its brakes, causing its driver to panic and lose control of the vehicle.

Earlier, at least 43 passengers were hurt in two accidents in a day along the Maharlika Highway in Camarines Sur and Laguna.

One of the drivers was reportedly reading a text message and another failed to see an oncoming train.

Several accidents involved reading text messages while driving, while some were attributed to poorly engineered roads. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Habeas corpus case forces release of patient

By ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A hospital here was forced to release on July 4 a patient who had been detained in the hospital for over two weeks for failing to pay his bills.

A court-ordered the patient's release. Dirkie Palma, Silliman University Medical Center Foundation Inc. (SUMCFI) legal counsel, did not object to the court order, saying they would just collect the unpaid bills from patient Robert Francis Bocanegra through other lawful means.

Bocanegra was ordered released by Judge Celso Tayros of the Regional Trial Court Branch 39 after the patient's father, Alberto, filed a petition for *habeas corpus.*

Bocanegra, a registered nurse, was admitted at the SUMCFI for serious physical injuries, which he suffered from a vehicular accident in Bais City on March 7.

He said he had already given the hospital a cash payment of P115,781.60 and P50,000 for medicines and physical therapy.

But the hospital said he still has to pay P260,395.76, including P35,000 in professional fees of the surgeon who treated him.

Bocanegra said he was due for discharge since June 15 but they could not comply with the requirements of the SUMCFI to settle their balance either through postdated checks, certificates of title to real property or through a comaker, someone who would guarantee payment and whom the hospital would trust.

He also said his unnecessary confinement would only add to his mounting bills that would cause him and his family hardship and untold sufferings.

Now that he was finally discharged, Bocanegra said he planned to find a good-paying job abroad so he could settle his debts with the SUMCFI.

GMA favors Drilon as Senate President

(From page A1)

Senators Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan.

This bloc bonded by a common three-term House tenure and its PPC campaign in the May 14 elections, is backing up Arroyo for the top post.

All together, there are 12 senators in the PPC.

The diagram also shows the opposition with two blocs: The LDP made up of Senators Edgardo Angara, Teresa Oreta, Rodolfo Biazon, Blas Ople and Vicente Sotto.

The second bloc is the Puwersa ng Masa of Senators Loi Ejercito Estrada, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan.

Together these two opposition blocs have eight members backing up Angara.

Finally, there's another group in the diagram that's outside the PPC and the opposition—the so-called "independents," though one senator said the better term for them is "floating." These are Senators Ramon Revilla and his son-in-law, Robert Jaworski, John Osmeña and Senate topnotcher Noli de Castro. This group is quiet about its preference.

Lakas objection

Lakas may not take to the presidential anointment of Drilon for the top post over its bet, Cayetano. Some PPC members also object to Drilon as he does not have any known ally in the PPC coalition. But that could be shot down by the argument that, to paraphrase former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, you have the President for an ally, you need no other ally.

There could also be objection from Sen. Serge Osmeña, who is a keen rival of Drilon for the leadership of the Visayas. Serge is known to harbor ambitions to be Ms Macapagal's running mate in 2004. But his negative vote would be balanced by his cousin, John, who is a close associate of Drilon.

Swing votes

Where to get the rest of the votes, to bag at least a 13-vote simple majority. Flavier says they'd like 15 votes so that it would be more decisive.

The PPC group would likely turn to the bloc of "floating" senators for the extra votes to clinch the Senate race and here it's conceded that the most *"sungkit-able"* (desirable) would be neophyte De Castro. Insiders opine that ABS-CBN won't allow Noli to wander off to the opposition.

A crucial mini-bloc that could be a swing vote is the father-in-law/son-in-law tandem of Senators Revilla and Jaworski. Revilla is unabashed in his declaration to colleagues to let them know when they already got 11 votes, so that he and Jaworski could swing to them.

Also, Drilon has to show what Flavier termed "identifiable following."

Drilon resigned from the LAMP coalition of Estrada early in November, 2000 after the jueteng scandal broke out and aligned himself with the anti-Estrada forces during the impeachment trial and at Edsa II. Though he ran and won under the PPC banner in the last elections, most of his former close associates in LAMP, such as Senators Oreta, John Osmeña and Angara, are with the opposition.

At a recent meeting between Drilon and Villar, the latter asked the former, *"Eh, sino ba ang dala mo?"* (Who's with you?)

There is a possibility that Angara could offer the eight votes of his bloc to Drilon if the former sees that bagging the Senate top post for himself would be hopeless. The problem with this scenario, however, is that Drilon would be turning his back on his current allies in the PPC.

Rumblings against Angara

Senator Ople was recently quoted as saying that "we are in the process of wrapping up the Senate presidency for Ed Angara." Ople hinted that the three or four extra votes Angara's group needs to clinch that post could be obtained in exchange for chairmanships of the most powerful committees.

The speculation is that he was referring to Pimentel, Cayetano and Drilon, who, he opined, would end up with the minority if they don't join with the Angara group.

But there are rumblings of discontent against Angara from within the opposition itself.

Former Ambassador and NPC stalwart Ernesto Maceda was quoted as saying that the eight opposition senators may not be solid for Angara, as some do not like the way former President Joseph Estrada's executive secretary sought to make himself "look clean" (*"nagmalinis siya"*) at the expense of the deposed leader in the last days of his incumbency.

Get PPC act together

At the July 1 meeting at the Palace, President Macapagal was said to have advised the PPC aspirants to thresh out the problem among themselves. The aspirants are inclined to settle it among themselves without her intervention, if possible.

Ms. Macapagal's principal concern is said to be the preservation of the PPC, following its near-dissolution in the House after the PPC contenders couldn't reach agreement on the speakership issue. This forced frontrunner Joe de Venecia, to recruit the 52-member Nationalist People's Coalition into his column to ensure that he gets the numbers.

Since the bottom line for PPC is to secure the Senate presidency from the opposition, its concern right now is to ensure that no PPC member breaches the ranks. Preserve the PPC unity and "purity" is the battlecry.

Guingona formula

To ensure unity and purity, the PPC aspirants agreed in the presence of President Macapagal to adhere to the formula devised by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Lakas party president.

The Guingona formula provides that whoever gets a simple majority of the 12 votes, which is seven votes, would automatically get the support of the rest within the administration bloc. He becomes the PPC candidate for the Senate presidency. Only after the 12 PPC votes are secured can this candidate begin negotiations with other groups or senators for their votes.

Under this formula groupings have become crucial, and the two blocs in the PPC which have specific votes have become the object of intense wooing and courting.

Villar had been saying, "We have a lot of suitors and our price is going up."

Cayetano and Arroyo, who are supported by their respective blocs, have been talking about clinching it already between them, so that with their eight votes they would only need five more votes to bag the top post. The problem is that they can't agree on who between them will get it.

Power-sharing

To facilitate things, there is a proposal for the two contenders for "power-sharing"—one and a half years each until the 2004 elections.

Cayetano wants to take the first half right away, on the argument that he would more need time to prepare for reelection in 2004; so he better be Senate president now. But Arroyo wants the post now, and has proposed that he takes it for only one year and Cayetano gets the last two years.

Cayetano, however, is hampered by what colleagues term a "personality problem." On the other hand, Arroyo, who enjoys broad support from the civil society groups, could be regarded as a trifle too independent-minded by President Macapagal.

Compromise

Pimentel is being talked about as a compromise candidate if President Macapagal is not too enthusiastic to have Drilon bag the top post, given his 2004 presidential ambition. Pimentel has presidential ambitions too, but it has noted that by 2004, younger candidates would edge him out; so he could appear harmless to Malacanang at the moment.

Another compromise candidate could be Flavier, the only true Lakas candidate among the PPC winners, and also the most senior. Flavier parried talk about his being a "dark horse" by saying he's "maputi" (fair).

2nd balloting

What could happen in the Senate race is that commitments could stick in the first balloting, but anything could happen in a second balloting, particularly if it's a secret balloting, as some are advocating. Flavier said he has told his Lakas party mates to go for Cayetano, but he appears to have left open his choice for the second balloting.

Fluid, hazy

Because of the blocs, Drilon pointed out last week that no one of the contenders, including himself, can claim to have even the minimum winning number of 13 votes. "Anyone who claims he has the votes is lying," Drilon stressed.

The senators could eventually cross coalition lines in the final voting for the Senate presidency. But at the moment what is evident is that the balance of power between the two coalition groups is almost even.

Senator Flavier admitted that each coalition has problems. It's still fluid and hazy in the PPC, Flavier said.

ANGARA: Lone opposition contender.

PIMENTEL: Compromise candidate if PPC is not united.

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Abu Sayyaf chief of staff captured

(From page A1)

His group is said to have pulled off the May 22 attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal Island, Davao del Norte.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said Global's capture was the result of a combined operation of the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica).

"We see it as another indication that the Abu Sayyaf network is gradually but surely being dismantled," Rigoberto Tiglao said in a news conference, "We're turning the corner now in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf."

PNP officers were reportedly concerned about the credit for Global's capture, and not the P5-million reward.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, commander of the 601st Brigade, also aired remarks to that effect.

Tiglao also said authorities were deliberating on the issue of who should be rewarded.

"The priority is the civilian informant," he said.

Chief Supt. Manuel Raval of the Central Mindanao PNP command said Global and his men were arrested around 5 p.m. inside the Jabarani compound in Barangay Calumpang, where they were attending a prayer session.

The three others arrested were identified as Halik Sabdani alias Abuajar/Hajar, Javier Sampang alias Abu Khair/Kahir, and Saltinar Sali alias Toto.

They carry a bounty of P1 million each.

"The identities of the four arrested suspects matched the file photographs of wanted ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) members that we have in our possession," Raval said.

He said the raiding team, composed of local policemen and members of the 601st Army Brigade, confiscated a number of Armalite bullets and cell phone casings at the Jabarani compound.

Sabdani, Sampang and Sali were presented at a press conference at Camp Fermin G. Lira Jr. yesterday morning.

Mayor Pedro Acharon said Global was to be presented to the President and had to be immediately flown to Malacañang.

Escorted by military men, a handcuffed Global arrived in Manila past 11 a.m. aboard a Philippine Airlines commercial flight. He was immediately taken in a van to Fort Bonifacio.

Tip from an asset

At the press conference in Fort Bonifacio, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos said it was actually a Nica "asset" who tipped off authorities on Global's presence in General Santos.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said the military expected more Abu Sayyaf leaders to fall in the next few weeks.

"There are more to come," Mabanta said.

In General Santos, Magsino said Global's group had been under surveillance for weeks.

He said the military had received an intelligence report that the group was hiding in the compound but that efforts had to be made to ensure it was indeed Global and not anyone else.

Raval said the bandits fled to General Santos after the attack on Pearl Farm, which the military initially blamed on sea pirates.

The bandits were supposedly targeting some of the foreigners vacationing at the resort, but security guards put up a fight.

At least three people were killed in the attack.

Raval said the bandits wanted to use General Santos as jump-off point on their way back to Jolo.

He said six of Global's men had already left for Jolo and that only six, including Global, had been left in the city.

A hunt is ongoing for the remaining members of Global's group, Raval said.

Bounty

The bounty for the capture of Global and his men comes up to P8 million.

But Raval said, "higher authorities were still evaluating" who would receive the reward.

Magsino, ground commander of the joint military and police force that went after Global's group in the towns of Malita, Don Marcelino and Jose Abad Santos in Davao del Sur and in Sarangani province, said he merely performed his job and was not thinking about the promised cash.

"I was more concerned about how to neutralize (the bandits)," he said.

Two of Magsino's men died in the initial operations.

At Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva pointed out that the military had been producing results despite criticisms of the pace of its operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"(The bandits) are being captured and neutralized, in one way or another. Our operating elements work well . . . while it may be true that we are not going as fast as the public demands," Villanueva told reporters.

"In fact, your Army and Navy are disregarding comfort and face daily risk in their determined effort to capture the Abu Sayyaf bandits. It is our goal to see to it that the Abu Sayyaf is terminated," he said.

Villanueva was guest at the turnover yesterday of the Philippine Military Academy command from Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr. to Maj. Gen. Rufo de Veyra.

Peace of mind

Mayor Acharon said Global's capture would at least give General Santos residents peace of mind.

However, he said, the public should constantly be on alert for possible threats to peace and order in the city.

"Our 500 policemen can hardly cope with their job of securing the 85,000 households and more than 5,000 business establishments in the city. Our peace efforts would only bear fruit when all sectors in the community are helping each other," he said.

Acharon issued the appeal in the wake of the still unsolved bombing in the city at dawn Sunday, which injured 13 people.

He said the police and military were still determining whether Global's group had anything to do with the bombing.

But some witnesses told reporters that Global fit the description of one of those seen leaving the area a few minutes before the explosion occurred.

In Manila, Agence France Presse quoted AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan as saying that Global could have been plotting to stage bombings in General Santos to divert military attention from Basilan island, where another Abu Sayyaf faction is holding hostage 21 Americans and Filipinos.

The police and military said they had tightened security around South Cotabato, including General Santos, which is about four hours by speedboat from Basilan.

"There could be other Abu Sayyaf members in South Cotabato because they fled the Army offensive in Basilan," Raval said.

"We are now on red alert," added city police chief Senior Supt. Conrado Lasa. "We have intensified monitoring of suspicious people in the city."

No amnesty

In Cagayan de Oro City, Remedios Balbin, senior commissioner of the National Amnesty Commission, told the INQUIRER that Abu Sayyaf members involved in kidnappings for ransom were definitely out of the government's amnesty program.

Balbin made the statement after reporters pressed her on whether Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang alias Commander Robot would be granted amnesty upon his surrender.

Robot was earlier reported to have sent surrender feelers to former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson.

However, Balbin declined to give a categorical answer to the question of whether Abu Sayyaf members not involved in kidnappings could be pardoned.

She said the confusion on what the Abu Sayyaf was all about should be settled first.

"How did they come about? Who created the Abu Sayyaf?" she said.

The Abu Sayyaf claims to be fighting for a separate Islamic state. But Balbin pointed out that its reputation as a kidnap-for-ransom group was belying this claim. *With reports from Allan A. Nawal and Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio in Manila; AFP*

Berroya out as PNP intelligence chief

(From page A1)

"The deadline for this, she said, was yesterday. She wants immediate results. Incidences of kidnapping have already cost the country's image dearly," Tiglao said.

Besides Berroya, four other ranking police officials, occupying sensitive posts, were given new assignments, a PNP press statement said.

The statement said that the President approved of Berroya's relief upon the recommendation of Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, and Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

Berroya replaces Chief Supt. Enrique Galang as director of Central Luzon. Galang was appointed director of the Bicol regional police office.

Delfin new intel chief

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, erstwhile head of the Bicol PNP Command, occupied Berroya's former post.

Delfin is not new to his post. He served as PNP intelligence chief during the Estrada administration.

Also affected in the revamp was Deputy Director General Romeo Peña, the erstwhile Metro Manila police chief, who was named PNP deputy chief for operations. Vice Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante was given Peña's post.

The President said the PNP revamp was meant to "reinvigorate" the organization.

"President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is confident that the establishment of the National Anti-Crime Commission and the changes in the PNP hierarchy will very soon end the scourge of heinous crimes in the country," Tiglao said in a statement.

Tiglao said the revamp was one way of resolving problems that got in the way of a more efficient PNP.

"She feels that the way to reinvigorate an organization is to effect changes in task and functions," Tiglao said in a briefing.

The still unnumbered executive order creating the NACC was finally signed yesterday morning after legal questions had been ironed out.

The President announced the EO some weeks back.

"The NACC is envisioned to effect closer, maximum coordination among our law enforcement agencies. In particular it is empowered to focus on operations against particular crime syndicates," Tiglao said.

The NACC, which is under the Office of the President, is composed of a chair, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, and 10 members, including three from the private sector who have yet to be named.

The members are the interior secretary, defense secretary, national security adviser, Armed Forces chief of staff, PNP director general, National Bureau of Investigation director, and chief state prosecutor.

The NACC shall have a secretariat headed by an executive director.

The NACC was given 11 specific powers, chief of which is to direct the conduct of anti-crime operations of law enforcement agencies as may be ordered by the President or as may be agreed upon by the commission.

Reward for informants

It has the power to investigate and prosecute cases involving heinous crimes and other cases referred to it by the President; to grant monetary rewards to informants; and to recommend the inclusion of witnesses to the Witness Protection Program.

The NACC is different from the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force headed by Lacson because it has no task force of its own.

It will use the PNP and the NBI and, in special circumstances, the military, as its implementing agencies.

Representatives from the Chinese-Filipino community further make the NACC different from PAOCTF.

The NACC was given an initial budget of P20 million.

Estrada arraigned today for plunder

(From page A1)

sonally see to it that it will happen," Desierto said in an interview yesterday afternoon.

Estrada is also scheduled to be arraigned today on a lesser charge of illegally using an alias. He became the first Philippine president to face criminal trial when he was arraigned on a perjury charge on June 27. But he refused to enter a plea on the advice of his lawyers, prompting the Sandiganbayan to enter a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

Desierto urged the disgraced leader to enter a plea in his plunder arraignment. "It is not important whether he will plead guilty or not. What is important is that he will enter a plea," Desierto said.

Deluge of motions

Despite Estrada's pronouncements that he is willing to answer the accusations against him point by point, his battery of lawyers has so far filed 68 motions before the Sandiganbayan delaying his prosecution, Desierto said.

"If Estrada is sincere in his wish to clear his name before the people, he should welcome this opportunity to present his side and if need be, he should overrule the advice of his lawyers, if only for the sake of truth," the Ombudsman said.

Yesterday, the defense filed another motion to remand Estrada's third case—illegal use of alias—to the Office of the Ombudsman.

And Verzola said Estrada's lawyers would ask the Supreme Court today whether holding the plunder arraignment would be in violation of the normal 15 days given to appeal.

But Desierto argued that the arraignment was long overdue since the law only allows for a maximum 16-day wait after a case is filed.

The court initially set the arraignment for May but it was rescheduled twice on the request of the defense.

No reason to be biased

Ruling on the motion to inhibit himself, Badoy took 20 pages to insist that "I had no reason to be biased against the accused."

He said the defense panel misconstrued as bias on his part a passage in the court's June 9 resolution denying house arrest for the Estradas.

The questioned passage, authored by Badoy, reads:

"With the prosecution and indictment of a President, even while sitting as President, a new day has finally dawned for our country and people. The court is called upon to contribute its share in pushing the momentum of the day forward to the end that the light and luster of that day may not be extinguished like dying embers in the freezing cold of a lonely Gulag winter night....

"The clarion call to arms, the warning must ring loud, clear and unmistakable to one and all—that, henceforth, even the powerful and the mighty will be held to account for, and explain, their acts."

Exuberance

In yesterday's resolution, Badoy said "there is nothing in that 'momentum of the moment' thing that indicates bias. Perhaps 'exuberance,' yes. But exuberance has something to do more with style than with substance."

"And, as every individual has characteristics unique only to him, so it is with style. And, if you prefer, let us just say the tendency towards 'exuberance' happens to be part of my style."

Badoy further noted that his decision to deny house arrest for the Estradas "was not born out of any bias. It was mandated by the conclusion reached after long and serious study."

Also yesterday, the Sandiganbayan gave Estrada's lawyers and the Philippine National Police three days to comment on a petition by Desierto to transfer the former President to a jail in Camp Crame.

The third division also scrapped a prosecution motion asking the court proceedings be conducted in Filipino. The court cited a lack of stenographers adept in Filipino and the petitioners' failure to prove that they could not properly appreciate testimony delivered in English.

And in another resolution, the court gave Jinggoy Estrada the go-signal to schedule a cardiac examination at the Makati Medical Center not later than Wednesday. In turn, his doctors at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center were ordered to report the test results to the court by Friday.

Bomb searches

The same security arrangements employed during Estrada's perjury arraignment will be employed today, but Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta said there would be additional measures against bomb attacks.

"We will be employing the same security preparations we did during his first arraignment," PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said. "We are trying to preempt possible efforts by some bad elements to take advantage of the situation."

On June 27, up to 4,500 policemen were mobilized to secure Estrada's route from the military hospital to the court, to control demonstrators on the ground, and to guard Sandiganbayan's interior.

Mendoza told reporters police would also patrol around the Manila area today and closely guard Malacañang.

Urieta said the Sandiganbayan premises and nearby buildings would be searched for planted bombs, but added that no immediate threats to Estrada and to the court have surfaced so far.

Police expected large demonstrations during the perjury arraignment, but these failed to materialize.

Plunder primer

The other accused in the plunder case—Charlie "Atong" Ang, Yolanda Ricaforte, Delia Rajas, Eleuterio Tan and Alma Alfaro—will not be arraigned since they are at large. *(See cartoon story on Page A1.)*

Under the law, an accused individual can be arraigned only in her presence. But she can be tried in absentia if she jumps bail after the arraignment.

During the arraignment, the court will read to the Estradas and Serapio the details of the plunder charges against them.

Estrada and his co-accused allegedly plundered the nation's coffers of P4.2 billion within the three years that he was President.

They allegedly illegally acquired their ill-gotten wealth through kickbacks and commissions.

The prosecution has cited four instances in which Estrada allegedly committed plunder:

- When he allegedly accepted a P545-million bribe from jueteng collections;
- When he allegedly accepted P130 million worth of tobacco excise taxes
- When he allegedly opened and kept a secret P3.1-billion bank account under the alleged alias Jose Velarde
- When he allegedly earned kickbacks after allegedly forcing the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to invest in Belle Corporation.

For live media coverage

Plunder Watch, a citizens' watchdog group, said it would hold a demonstration outside the Sandiganbayan today and also continue to press for live media coverage of the trial.

Last week, Plunder Watch and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan led cause-oriented groups in asking the Supreme Court to reconsider a decision banning the live coverage.

For its part, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas yesterday urged journalists to "assert, defend and uphold the people's right to information."

"We expect media men and women to attend Estrada's arraignment with their video cams, handheld radios and other gadgets not as an act of defiance but to continue their role as heralds of democracy," KMP chair Rafael Mariano said in a statement.

He said the press must not allow any attempt to curtail the public's right to information, "like Estrada once did to the Manila Times and the INQUIRER during the dark days of his presidency." *With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Delfin Mallari; INQUIRER wires*

Low-profile . . .

(From page A1)

tralian cameraman preserved on film their experience from beginning to end.

More importantly, it vividly demonstrated the leadership dynamics within the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf.

The video initially showed Galib Andang alias Commander Robot talking with a German TV reporter.

The two appeared like old friends, smiling and laughing, as if sharing jokes. They first met just a day earlier, and even if they spoke in different languages—the foreigner in English, Andang in English-Filipino-Tausug—they seemed to understand each other.

Then one noticed some movement in the background, as other foreign journalists appeared to be walking in single file, apparently obeying inaudible orders spoken by an unseen person.

The camera panned to Robot and the German. Robot was holding the arm of the foreigner, as if holding him back, but the other seemed to be insisting that he wanted to join the rest.

The expression on Robot's face turned serious. He whispered something to the German, but the latter pointed to himself and then to a direction off-camera, obviously where his colleagues were.

Then a voice was clearly heard shouting in Tausug: "Why? Let him come, let him come right now."

Andang reluctantly let go of the German's arm, and, looking relieved, the journalist eagerly went off to join the tail end of the line disappearing into the jungle, straight into captivity.

The voice that Robot was compelled to obey belonged to Global.

Intellectual

The soft-spoken Global maintained a low profile.

Knowledgeable in Islam and a wide reader, he is the acknowledged "intellectual" among the Abu Sayyaf leaders, impressing even foreign journalists with his articulateness and seeming sincerity in pursuing his "cause."

"Impassioned" was how a French radio correspondent described Global's explanation of his ideology: Only governance based on the Shari'ah, and a return to the strict moral precepts of Islam, would be workable for the Muslims.

His credibility among the Abu Sayyaf followers is apparently based on the simple fact that he lived what he preached. He adhered to a spartan lifestyle and spent his days according to a rigid program of prayers, reflection and reading.

It is said that among the known Abu Sayyaf leaders, he is the only one who completed a college education, earning a degree in criminology from the Zamboanga A.E. Colleges.

In the TV footage of the press conference yesterday during which the military presented Global to the media, a close-up showed a round scar on his left hand, the stamp of membership in the Beta Sigma fraternity at the University of the Philippines.

Among his "brods" are former Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Aventajado and retired Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, both of whom figured prominently in the negotiations for the release of the Sipadan hostages.

During that months-long hostage crisis, Global and fellow Indanan native Abu Pula Jumdail fortified themselves in Samak in Talipao, near Bandang, Robot's territory.

But it was Robot or his emissaries who made the trips to Samak, and not the other way around, for no major decision was made without Global's concurrence.

Abu Sayyaf followers related that whenever the leaders discussed certain issues, Global would sit quietly listening, and usually spoke only after everyone had exhausted his point.

When he did speak up, everyone listened, and almost always agreed with him.

It was Global who composed those statements to the media and letters to the negotiators, which were usually hand-written in a neat old-fashioned script.

The language was elegant, sometimes stilted, but always revealing an educated writer.

Unrecognizable

In yesterday's TV footage, Global was almost unrecognizable as he stood behind the row of ranking military officers.

He was handcuffed, bareheaded and wearing a striped polo shirt.

As strange as the handcuffs was the attire, Global's usual garb being the Arabian *juba*, a long-sleeved shirt and an Afghan rebel's cap. Only the sparse goatee remained.

One wondered why he did not become a police officer instead, given his qualifications. Or maybe a local political leader, so he could help bring about the social reforms he envisioned.

If such questions about Global and other potential Muslim leaders can be answered, then perhaps we can begin to find answers to why the Abu Sayyaf came to be, and why it continues to exist.

Bishops back workers' call for pay hike

(From page A1)

wage increase.

But Sto. Tomas said yesterday that it was not the job of the government to set the amount of the increase.

"That should be the subject of negotiations between labor and management," the labor secretary said.

Sto. Tomas said the proposal to raise the minimum wages should be tackled before the wage boards.

Sen. Juan Flavier filed a bill last week seeking a P125 legislated wage increase. Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, chair of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, is set to file a counterpart bill in the House of Representatives.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the regional tripartite wage boards were in the "best position" to determine the wage increase because a legislated pay raise was a "tedious process."

Flavier has found an ally in Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Honasan appealed to the business community to be "humane and sensitive" to the plight of workers, who he said were "being pushed to hopelessness due to the present economic crisis."

P50 in relief allowance

Expecting long debates on labor's demand for a P125-wage hike, the TUCP is asking the Department of Labor and Employment to order a P50 in relief allowance to be given daily to workers until a wage increase is approved by either Congress or the regional wage boards.

Alex Aguilar, TUCP spokesperson, said the allowance could later be integrated into the wage orders that Congress or the regional wage boards may grant.

Bayan Muna Representative-elect Liza Maza proposed that the wage increase benefit not only regular workers but also casual or contractual employees.

Sen. Ralph Recto, on the other hand, is asking the government to reduce the income tax being paid by workers as this would result in "more money retained in the pay envelope of employees."

Recto said his proposal would not jeopardize the "financial health of firms."

Closures

Miguel B. Varela, Ecop president and chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said a P125-wage increase could lead to the closure of small businesses employing less than 20 persons.

He noted that nine out of 10 businesses in the country were small enterprises.

Varela said the wage hike would have limited impact on big companies paying more than the minimum wage under their collective bargaining agreement with their unions.

He urged the government to balance the workers' desire for higher wages with the needs of companies to stay alive during these difficult times.

More than 500 small companies in the country have cut about 22,000 jobs as economic growth slows, the labor secretary said.

Sto. Tomas said a total of 586 companies "reported retrenchments or closures" in the five months to May, but she did not give a breakdown of how many firms shut down.

"These were mainly manufacturing companies with employment of less than 100, followed by retail trade, wholesale industries including the restaurant industry, and service industries," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

Former Sen. Ernesto Herrera, TUCP secretary general, allayed fears that a new wage increase would lead to more layoffs.

As a rule, distressed business establishments are exempted from immediately complying with new wage increases "provided they can show proof of their financial difficulties," Herrera said.

He said he expected the wage increase to boost the economy.

"A substantial wage adjustment will allow our workers to spend a little more for their basic living requirements. It will therefore create increased demand for goods and services," he said.

The Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino (PMP), an underground revolutionary workers group, dismissed the specter of layoffs and closures raised by capitalists as "usual black propaganda" against a demand for a wage increase.

Consider revolution

In a statement, Patricio Ramirez, nom de guerre of the PMP spokesperson, called on the workers to consider revolution if the government could not grant a wage increase.

For its part, the Bukluran ng Mangagawang Pilipino (BMP) called on workers to transcend their political differences and stage an Edsa IV to gain concessions from the administration.

"The BMP is willing to support the P125-wage demand by the KMU if they can solicit the endorsement of the TUCP for it," Victor Briz said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Armstrong 49th in first stage

BOULOGNE SUR MER, France—Strong winds and gray skies are not what you expect in France in July. So Lance Armstrong huddled close to his fellow riders in yesterday's first stage of the 2001 Tour de France, and finished in 49th place. The two-time champion was somewhere in the middle of the pack when it sprinted to the finish line in this northeastern port city. Erik Zabel won the dash. *AP*

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ▪ **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Advil Western Open, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports This is the PGA Tour at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
TENNIS: Wimbledon Day 13 – Highlights at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: 2001 ABC Champions Cup, Preliminary Round at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Star Sports
CYCLING: 2001 Tour De France Highlights Stage #2 at 1:30 p.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

EMPTY BOAST

No GMA for ralliers at Palace

By June Navarro

THE RALLY staged yesterday by a sprinkling of athletes, coaches and sports leaders failed to get an audience with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace.

Assembling at Mendiola Bridge, the ralliers, whose leaders told media the day before that they were scheduled to meet with the President yesterday, were met instead by Deputy Executive Secretary Waldo Flores.

The ralliers carried placards asking Cito Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, to resign. They also wanted Butch Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, fired by the President.

Many of the ralliers were basketball players belonging to the faction of Tiny Literal, the "other" president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (the other BAP head being Lito Puyat).

But Flores told them that a change of leadership at this time would drastically affect the training of the athletes bound for the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Flores told the ralliers to "wait after the Kuala Lumpur SEA Games."

"We will review everything after the SEA Games," Flores was quoted as telling the ralliers' leaders, who were ushered into the Palace.

Among those who spearheaded the rally were weightlifting's Jaime Sebastian, basketball's Graham Lim, former PSC commissioner Tisha Abundo and former POC presidents Julian Malonso and Cristy Ramos. Fr. Robert Reyes was also with the group.

Tuason said the PSC has already prioritized the needs of the athletes and coaches starting in March (*See separate story*).

Flores also took notice of the protesters' diversified clamors on the PSC leadership, pointing out that they should have a common stand before asking for Malacañang's help.

Reyes, the "running priest" not connected with any sports association, said he was concerned about the replacement of holdovers in the PSC. He called Tuason, Dayrit and IOC representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde as "trapos" (traditional politicians).

PSC tends to athletes needs

AS early as March of this year, the PSC has already addressed the needs of the athletes and holds monthly consultation meetings and fellowships with them to further strengthen our relationship and open communication lines.

We have also established mechanisms to prioritize, sustain, and immediately provide for the athletes' needs.

We have purchased training and competition equipment and uniforms for athletes bound for the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games, while the joint POC-PSC SEAG Task Force has been meeting regularly with the different NSAs to tackle other requirements of athletes preparing for said SEAG.

The PSC is resolved in giving full priority to the welfare of athletes and coaches in spite of an economic crisis.

Alvarez MBA Hardcourt Hero

ALVAREZ

HE was acquired to provide spirit and leadership for the Socsargen Marlins and Paul "Bong" Alvarez is doing just that in the ongoing MBA 4th Season.

After losing their first six games, Alvarez promised that in their next game against the Davao Eagles, he will do something the Marlins management and the coaching staff can be proud of.

True to his word, the 33-year-old veteran, known as Mr. Excitement in Philippine basketball, led the Marlins in shooting down the Eagles,101-85,with 32 points,7 rebounds, 7 assists and 4 steals.

In their next game against the defending champion Andok's San Juan Knights, he took the back seat and let Cris Bade and Aldrich Reyes shine. But Alvarez was there to provide the intangibles.

He only finished with 15 points following Bade and Reyes, who had 25 and 20 points, respectively, but dished out 7 assists and made 5 crucial steals to help the Marlins upset the Knights, 108-97.

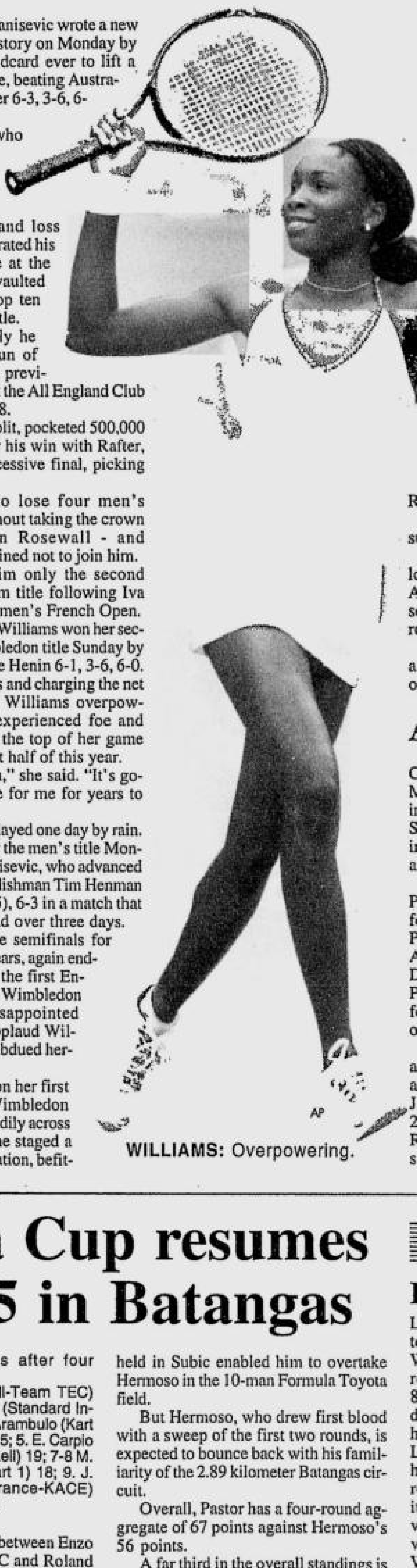
His superb performance made Alvarez the MBA Press Corps choice for the Hardcourt Hero of the Week from July 1 to 6.

Alvarez's rivals were John Ferriols of the Negros Slashers and Jeffrey Flowers of the Laguna Lakers, who got 1 vote each.

Other nominees were Jonathan Serrano of the LBC Batangas Blades, Cris Clay of the Laguna Lakers, Dino Aldequer of the Negros Slashers, Bade and Reyes.

"He treats every game as a championship game. He inspires his teammates with his all-out game," said Marlins coach Boyzie Zamar.

Ivanisevic makes Wimby history; Williams pockets 2nd straight title


WILLIAMS: Overpowering.

LONDON— Goran Ivanisevic wrote a new page of Wimbledon history on Monday by becoming the first wildcard ever to lift a Grand Slam singles title, beating Australian third seed Pat Rafter 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 9-7.

The 29-year-old, who had virtually disappeared from view over the past two seasons after a miserable run of injury and loss of form, not only celebrated his first Grand Slam title at the 48th attempt but also vaulted back into the world top ten with his 22nd career title.

Just as importantly he snapped a dreadful run of bad luck here, having previously lost three finals at the All England Club in 1992, 1994 and 1998.

Ivanisevic, from Split, pocketed 500,000 pounds ($750,000) for his win with Rafter, losing his second successive final, picking up half that sum.

The only man to lose four men's Wimbledon finals without taking the crown was Australian Ken Rosewall - and Ivanisevic was determined not to join him.

His win made him only the second Croatian to win a Slam title following Iva Majoli at the 1997 women's French Open.

Meanwhile, Venus Williams won her second consecutive Wimbledon title Sunday by beating Belgian Justine Henin 6-1, 3-6, 6-0.

Crushing her serves and charging the net at every opportunity, Williams overpowered a smaller, less experienced foe and showed she's back at the top of her game after slumping the first half of this year.

"I love Wimbledon," she said. "It's going to be a great place for me for years to come."

Both finals were delayed one day by rain. Pat Rafter will play for the men's title Monday against Goran Ivanisevic, who advanced Sunday by beating Englishman Tim Henman 7-5, 6-7 (6), 0-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 in a match that took three hours spread over three days.

Henman lost in the semifinals for the third time in four years, again ending his bid to become the first Englishman to play in the Wimbledon final since 1938. Disappointed Britons were left to applaud Williams, who was a bit subdued herself in victory.

When Williams won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last year, she leaped giddily across the grass. This time she staged a more restrained celebration, befitting a player who has become accustomed to championships.

"I couldn't leap because it was raining a little bit, and I didn't want to fall," she joked to the crowd during the trophy ceremony.

A few drops of rain fell as the final game began, and Williams rushed to close out the win. On the first match point she smoked a service return that jammed Henin, who could only dribble a backhand to the net.

A smiling Williams waved and swung her fists at the crowd, then hopped happily beside her changeover chair. She's familiar with the routine: Since July 2000, Williams has won three major singles titles and two Olympic gold medals.

For the latest triumph, Williams received $ 647,500. Henin earned $ 323,750.

Williams said the one-day wait because of rain didn't bother her, but her father and coach, Richard, suggested otherwise.

After six months of mostly disappointing results, she has reason to smile.

In January, Williams endured the most lopsided loss of her career, 6-1, 6-1 to Martina Hingis in the Australian Open quarterfinals. Then she was upset last month by Barbara Schett in the opening round at the French Open.

But Wimbledon rejuvenated her game, just like a year ago, when the tournament marked her start of a 35-match winning streak. *AP, AFP*

Adaza gains finals

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Patricia Adaza of Mati, Davao Oriental, overcame another damp day in dumping Anafil Salomon, 8-2, before beating Irene Serito, 8-6, to barge into the final of two divisions in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here Sunday at the Nazareth Tennis Club.

Adaza meets Jasper Cabisong, who edged Noela Pacana, 8-7, for the girls' 16-under class jewel; before tangling anew with Serito, an 8-6 victor past Pacana for the girls' 14-under division title. Ed Angelo Diez of Davao arranged a showdown with Duma Ele Boloto of Marawi, who tripped James Pang, 8-6, in the boys' 14-under bracket then guns for a double against Alexis La Paz, an 8-3 winner over Raff Laput, in the boys' 16-under category.

Other finalists include Francis Casey Alcantara against El Santo Santos in the unisex 10-under event and with Marvin Serito in the boys' 12-under class; Jaylene Tan with Cabisong in the junior women's 21-under group; and Andy Autentico tangling with Ricardo Solon in the junior men's 21-under division.

Toyota Cup resumes July 15 in Batangas

OVERALL standings after four rounds:

1. E. Pastor (Shell-Team TEC) 67 points; 2. R. Hermoso (Standard Insurance-KACE) 56; 3. K. Arambulo (Kart 1) 39; 4. J. Retuya (Shell) 25; 5. E. Carpio (Shell) 24; 6. C. Anton (Shell) 19; 7-8 M. Sy (Kart 1), J. Garcia (Kart 1) 18; 9. J. Tuason (Standard Insurance-KACE) 14; 10. M. Borja (Shell) 7.

THE SEETHING rivalry between Enzo Pastor of Shell-Team TEC and Roland Hermoso of Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics in the Formula Toyota Cup resumes on July 15 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Pastor, who swept the second leg in Subic on June 17, and Hermoso, who dominated the first leg in Batangas on April 29, will return to the starting grid as the prohibitive favorites in the annual series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and sponsored by Shell, Kilton Motors, Marlboro, Norkis Yamaha, Casino Filipino, CGU Insurance, Llumar, Phil. Internet Directory and MOF Company.

Pastor's impressive showing in the rain-interrupted third and fourth rounds held in Subic enabled him to overtake Hermoso in the 10-man Formula Toyota field.

But Hermoso, who drew first blood with a sweep of the first two rounds, is expected to bounce back with his familiarity of the 2.89 kilometer Batangas circuit.

Overall, Pastor has a four-round aggregate of 67 points against Hermoso's 56 points.

A far third in the overall standings is Kirk Arambulo of Kart 1 with 39 points, followed by Joel Retuya of Shell with 25 points and Elson Carpio of Shell with 24 points.

The rest of the participants–Carlos Anton of Shell, Manuel Sy of Kart 1, Jess Garcia of Kart 1, J.P. Tuason of Standard Insurance-KACE and Mandy Borja of Shell–are too far behind in the overall standings to pose a threat to the top five drivers.

The Formula Toyota Cup will be held simultaneously with the Asian Formula 3 Challenge and the National Super Bike Championships.

For details, call Nelson Magsino at tel. 817-2469.

Spring Oil stuns Wang's

SPRING Cooking Oil stunned Wang's Ball Club, 100-85, and Konica (Nueva) crushed Philippine Army, 100-74, last Saturday at the start of the NBC-3rd Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

Mar Reyes, Alan de Castro and Jun Dural sparkled as national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's tireless Spring cagers outplayed Wang's in the last two quarters.

Action resumes today at the Makati Coliseum, with Spring and Konica disputing early leadership at 3 p.m. and Hub Café debuting against Army at 4:30.

The scores:

FIRST GAME

KONICA (100)—Reveche 20, Nobleza 16, Barnzon 14, Necesito 12, Ricafuente 9, Lim 7, Epil 6, Mopera 5, Lomboy 5, Lopez 2, Dayrit 2, Lana 2

ARMY (74)—Baltazar 27, Castillo 10, Yenzon 10, Montemayor 8, Jabar 7, Ilagan 6, Bengaum 2, Malapit 2, Lagundi 2, Gutierrez 0, Dau 0, Gonzales 0

Halftime: 41-29

SECOND GAME

SPRING (100)—Reyes 19, De Castro 17, Pacheco 12, Dural 11, Buendia 8, Lapena 7, Chuat 6, Ascutia 6, garcia 4, Nabung 4, Cuevas 4, Martinez 2, Simpas 0, Olino 0, Argente 0

WANG'S (85)—Valeriano 21, David 16, Orillosa 13, Castañeda 7, Ferma 6, Garcia 6, Tropa 5, Pile 5, yu 4, Jimenez 2, Baluyot 0, Austria 0

Halftime: 54-50

SPORTSWATCH

Hoch beats Love

LEMONT, Illinois —Scott Hoch made a 45-centimeter (1.5-foot) putt on the 18th yesterday to win the Western Open by one stroke, setting a tournament record with a 21-under 267 total. He finished with an 8-under 64. Davis Love III, who led for most of the day, made a costly mistake on the 18th tee, launching his drive so far left it almost hit the corporate tents. Love recovered, reaching the green in three shots, but his 3.6-meter (12-foot) putt for par lost speed as it reached the hole and slid by on the left side. That left it all for Hoch, who cooly sank the putt for his second victory of the season. He won $ 648,000 with the victory, giving him $ 2,504,686 for the season. Tiger Woods was never a factor, shooting a 71 that left him 13 strokes back in a tie for 20th. *AP*

Pak wins Farr anew

SYLVANIA, Ohio —Se Ri Pak pulled away from Maria Hjorth with birdies on the last two holes yesterday to win the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic for the third time in four years. Pak finished at 15-under 269, closing with a 3-under 68 after rounds of 70, 62 and 69. She earned $150,000. In her 16 competitive rounds at Highland Meadows Golf Course _ which for obvious reasons she calls her favorite layout in the world _ Pak is 54-under par. In addition to winning in 1998 and 1999, she was third a year ago _ a shot out of the playoff between eventual winner Annika Sorenstam and Rachel Teske. *AP*

Alcott hospitalized

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Hall of Famer Amy Alcott was hospitalized after experiencing chest pains prior to the final round of the Jamie Farr Kroger Classic. Alcott was listed in fair condition yesterday at Flower Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Colleen Grubb. Alcott has won 29 LPGA tournaments, including five majors, in her 27-year career. "She's feeling much better," Grubb said. Grubb said Alcott requested that hospital officials not disclose information about her symptoms and diagnosis. *AP*

US routs World, 5-1

SEATTLE —Toby Hall of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays organization homered and scored two runs to lead the United States to a 5-1 win over the World team in the All-Star Futures game. "It's a great feeling," Hall said yesterday. "You have those jitters when you come into a major league ballpark. Everyone should have that feeling. This is what I want to do with my life." Adam Dunn and Chase Utley also homered for Gaylord Perry's U.S. team. *AP*

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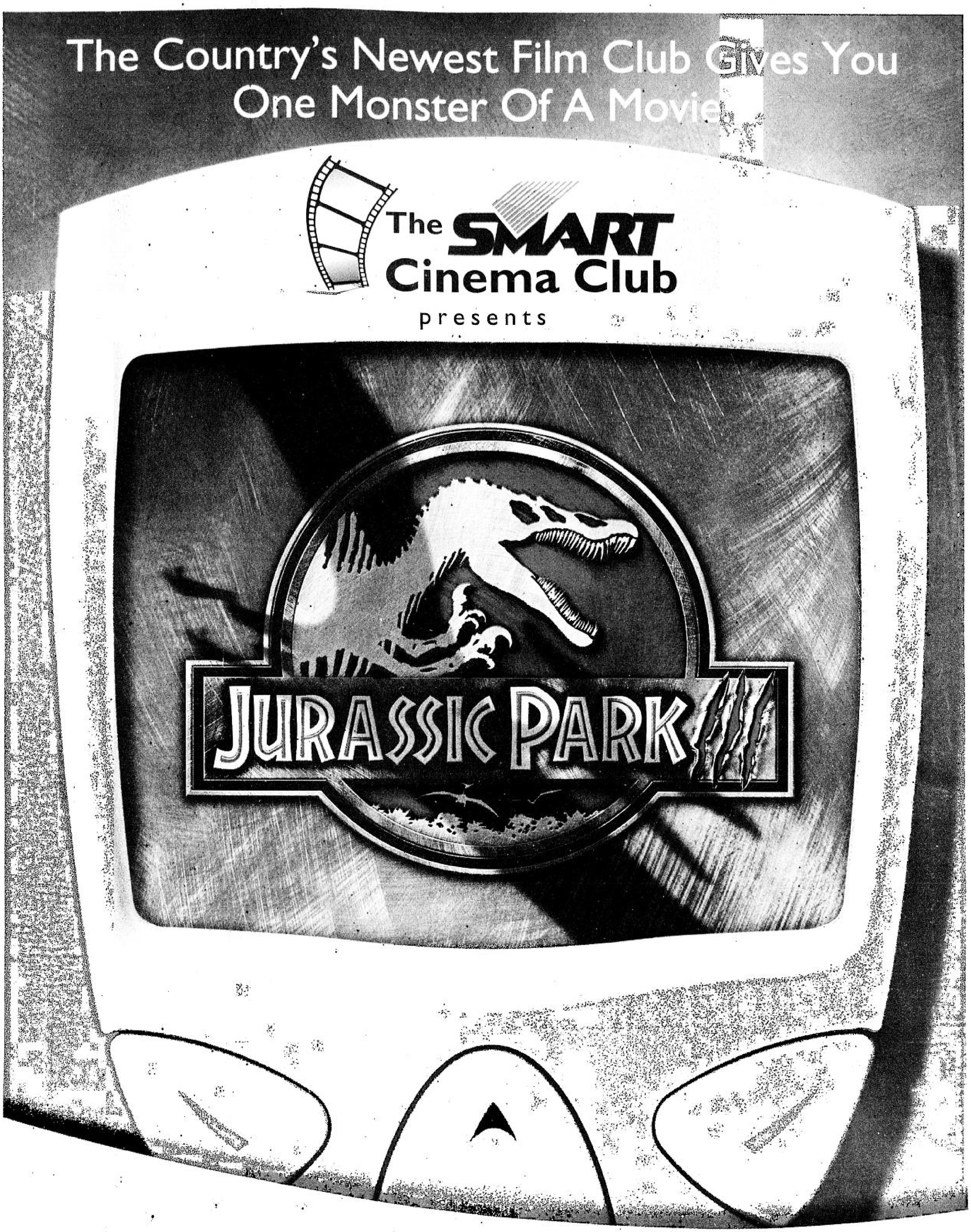

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■ Kidnapped trader, employee rescued A18

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Memorial park killer's death sentence reduced to 14 years

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE SUPREME Court yesterday downgraded from death to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment the punishment imposed on a man who shot dead a pregnant woman at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Oct. 31, 1998.

The Supreme Court noted that the shooting by Inocencio Gonzalez Jr. was accidental and devoid of treachery as prosecutors insisted, and ruled that it was homicide and not murder.

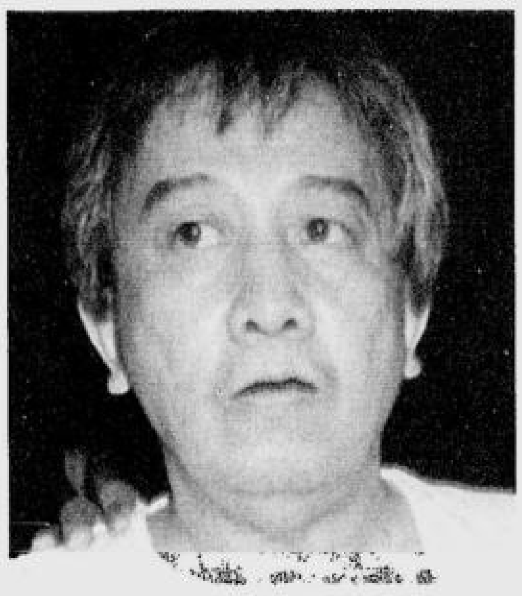
Following an automatic review of the decision of the Marikina Regional Trial Court which sentenced Gonzalez to death, Supreme Court justices voted 11-4 to give him a lighter punishment, pointing out that Gonzalez was provoked into using his gun.

Those who dissented with the downgrading of the penalty were Associate Justices Reynato Puno, Santiago Kapunan, Artemio Panganiban and Bernardo Pardo.

The Marikina RTC earlier ruled that Gonzalez should die by lethal injection for killing Feliber Andres, a registered nurse who was eight months pregnant with her second child.

Gonzalez was also found guilty of two counts of frustrated murder for wounding Andres' son Kenneth and nephew Kevin.

MEMORIAL/A18



INOCENCIO Gonzalez (far right) shot to death pregnant woman Feliber Andres and wounded her son John Kenneth (above right comforted by his father Noel) and nephew Kevin Valdez (with his mother). All are file photos. RYAN HERNANDEZ

Gay cadets join drive vs ROTC

BY JEROME ANING

A GROUP of gay students yesterday joined about 100 militant college students who staged another rally in Manila's university belt to demand that the Reservist Officers Training Corps. (ROTC) program be made optional.

The Society for Homosexual Emergence (SHE) claimed that homosexual cadets have suffered dis-

GAY/A18

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Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
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June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
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July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

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Barangay officials vs Malonzo appointment

By Christian V. Esguerra

HUNDREDS of barangay officials yesterday burned their ID cards to protest against what they called the "spurious" appointment of Reynaldo Malonzo as OIC mayor of Caloocan City.

About 1,500 residents joined them in staging simultaneous rallies at the main and north city halls in Caloocan and at the monument of Andres Bonifacio to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw Malonzo's appointment.

Ronnie Valencia, chair of Barangay 25, said Malonzo should not have been named OIC because of his alleged "sins" to the city since he became mayor in 1995.

"It's obvious that he was appointed because of his connections with Gloria," Valencia said in Filipino. "But the President should have considered what kind of mayor Malonzo was."

President Macapagal was said to have granted Malonzo's request to appoint "winning" candidates in the city as OICs since the Commission on Elections has yet to decide on a petition to declare an election failure. The petition was filed by Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and his older brother Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr.

Vangie Torcuado, 43, of the Samahan ng Malayang Kababaihang Pangkabuhayan, said the President should "hear the voice of Caloocan and withdraw Malonzo's appointment."

But Malonzo's supporter and veteran street parliamentarian Nathanael Santiago belittled yesterday's mass action. He said the Asistios could not urge the critical mass to rally behind their petition.

Santiago, secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna, ran for councilor under Malonzo's ticket on May 14. He was among the OICs Ms Macapagal appointed.

Malonzo asked the protesters to rally instead in front of the Comelec office and urge the commission to immediately proclaim the official winners.

"Those who are staging rallies are nothing but losers," Malonzo told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "If they could show at least one proof that the Asistios won, I'll immediately step down. "Nobody else deserves to be appointed OIC mayor than the one who won. I won."

Asistio supporters yesterday kicked off a series of mass actions against Malonzo with simultaneous rallies in key parts of Caloocan. As early as 8 a.m., Asistio supporters went to the city plaza and chanted "Rey Malonzo, *mandaraya* (cheat)" to the tune of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah."

Barangay officials burned their ID cards while others burned sticks of incense to "exorcise the evil that has befallen Caloocan."

MON Tulfo submitted his "On Target" column late. It will be back on Thursday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 10, 2001
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 32:23-33
Gospel: Mt 9:32-38

Some people brought to Jesus a man who was dumb because he was possessed by a demon. When the demon was driven out, the dumb man began to speak. The crowds were astonished and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." (But the Pharisees said, "He drives away demons with the help of the prince of demons.")

Jesus went around all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and he cured every sickness and disease. When he saw the crowds he was moved with pity, for they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the workers are only few. Ask the master of the harvest to send workers to gather his harvest."

Commentary:

With today's reading we arrive at the end of the two chapters that pictured Jesus as the new Moses leading the people to the new era of the powerful presence of God with his people. In Jesus God has set his people free from the power of the devil, symbolized by the healing of the demoniac. Israel, set free from the power of evil, is again able to speak. Although a response of sheer joy would have been expected, the actual reaction is mixed. The common people are ecstatic with joy while the leaders are unable to believe in the outpouring of God's grace, leaving the people effectively without adequate leadership in the new situation. The section ends with an invitation to pray for new leaders.

Father in heaven, we often fail to recognize the wonder of your goodness at work in our lives. Teach us the virtue of gratitude.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL/LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Taking advantage of superior strength—Taking advantage of superior strength, alleged as generic aggravating circumstance, cannot be appreciated in the present case since the prosecution was not able to prove that the accused purposely used excessive force in the commission of the crime. The aggravating circumstance of abuse of superior strength depends on the age, size and strength of the parties. It is considered whenever there is a notorious inequality of forces between the victim and the aggressor, assessing a superiority of strength notoriously advantageous for the aggressor which is selected or taken advantage of by him in the commission of the crime. While it may be conceded that the three accused outnumbered the victim who was unarmed, it must be pointed out that numerical superiority does not always mean abuse of superiority. Under the facts of the case, the two accused attacked the victim alternately, that is, one after the other. There was no notorious inequality of force shown to have been employed in the killing. In other words, the three accused did not secure advantage of their combined strength to perpetrate the crime with impunity. Indeed, when the attack was made on the victim alternately, there is no abuse of superior strength. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Baltar, Jr., G.R. No. 125306, December 11, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Kidnapped trader, employee rescued

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation nailed a suspected kidnapper and rescued two of his victims—a Chinese businessman and his sales agent—in an operation over the weekend.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said suspect Joel D. Dungo, 25, of San Nicolas corner Yakal Streets, Tondo, Manila, was the mastermind behind the abduction of Elmer Uy Chan, a dealer of semi-conductor spare parts in Manila, and his sales agent Rolando Estrella.

Wycoco said his men are still hunting down Dungo's alleged cohorts identified only as Bobong Dagdag, Junior Santos, Boy Negro and Niño.

Wycoco and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday presented Dungo to reporters.

Wycoco said his men rescued Chan and Estrella on Saturday.

Lawyer Samuel Ong, newly appointed deputy director of the NBI Intelligence Services, told reporters that the two men were abducted on July 3 after Chan took his daughter to school.

Ong said Chan agreed to meet with Dungo at noon at the corner of Quiricada and Yakal streets in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Dungo was also one of Chan's sales agents.

When Chan and Estrella arrived, the businessman invited Dungo to join him in his car, but Dungo allegedly refused.

"Instead, (Dungo) asked Estrella to buy something from a corner store," Ong said. "As Estrella alighted from the car, Dungo and three men who introduced themselves as policemen boarded Chan's car."

Ong said Dungo then took over the wheel and took Chan and Estrella to an undisclosed place.

Chan's wife Elizabeth said she received a call from her husband about 4 p.m. the same day. She said Chan confirmed to her that he and Estrella had been abducted, and told her that the abductors were demanding P10 million in ransom for their release.

"She was instructed to deposit an initial amount of P100,000 at Citibank and was threatened that the men would be killed if she failed," Ong said. "This prompted her to report the matter to the NBI."

The following day, the kidnappers again ordered Elizabeth to deposit P200,000 in the Citibank account.

The kidnappers reportedly withdrew P100,000 from the account. Unknown to them, NBI agents were already on their trail.

Ong said a witness saw Chan and Estrella talking to Dungo just before the kidnapping. When Ong invited Dungo to the NBI for questioning, the suspect was said to have admitted his participation in the kidnapping.

It was Dungo who led agents to the kidnappers' lair in Barangay Tulaok in San Simon, Pampanga on Saturday. That hideout is owned by suspect Junior Santos, the NBI said.

But before the NBI could enter the hideout, the kidnappers fled, leaving the victims behind.

The NBI has charged Dungo with kidnapping and violation of the anti-carnap law before the Manila city prosecutor's office.

ROTC cadets from UST rejoiced after walking out of formation on campus three Sundays ago. JESS YUSON

Japanese man's death drug-related, say cops

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE yesterday said the death of a Japanese in a Pasay City motel room on Friday might have something to do with drugs.

Pasay City police said they found drug paraphernalia in the motel room where Araki Yohei, 25, was found dead of apparent suicide Friday night.

Yohei, of Kokushinu, Japan, checked into room 55 of the Vinta Lodge at the corner of A. Luna and Villareal streets in Pasay City that afternoon with a Filipina companion identified as Unelona Oriendo, of 3710 Bautista Street, Pelarcon, Makati City.

"We found aluminum foils with traces of shabu in the room," said Chief Insp. Reynaldo Baral, head of the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division. "It is likely the two took shabu just before the man hanged himself."

Baral said they also found deep lacerations on Oriendo's neck. This led police to believe that the woman might have also tried to hang herself or that Yohei tried to strangle her as a result of a drug-induced high.

Baral said Oriendo might have passed out and, when Yohei saw the unconscious girl, he could have mistaken her for dead, which was why he took his own life.

But investigators led by PO3 Mike Manalang could not be certain of this theory because they have not yet interviewed Oriendo, who is still in a state of shock after she was found with the dead Japanese on Friday.

Doctors at the Pasay City General Hospital where Oriendo is confined told police the woman might not regain her senses.

Makati restaurant robbed

FOUR armed men robbed a popular Japanese restaurant in Makati City shortly before noon yesterday and fled with at least P90,000 in cash and jewelry. Nobody was reported hurt.

The heist was carried out a month after four men robbed two Chinese restaurants on Banawe Street in Quezon City.

Police said the robbers hit the Rai Ken Restaurant along Kamagong Street at 11:30 a.m. While the restaurant's delivery van was unloading supplies at the back of the restaurant, the four men came and went straight to the manager's office.

SPO4 June Asinas, Makati City police theft and robbery section investigator, said two of the men announced the robbery while the two others acted as lookouts.

Asinas said the men took the restaurant's earnings of P70,000 as well as the cellular phones and other personal effects of the employees.

Nelson F. Flores

Man jumps off LRT Sta. Cruz station

AN unidentified man jumped off a Light Rail Transit station in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday morning and is now in critical condition at the intensive care unit of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

The man was described as 20 to 25 years old, about 5-foot-5, medium-built and clad in a blue shirt and denim shorts.

SPO4 Herminio Saquillan of Western Police District Station 3 said the man jumped off the second-level staircase of the Baclaran-bound portion of the LRT-Doroteo Jose Station about 8:30 p.m.

Witnesses told police they saw the man wandering aimlessly in the station and were shocked when he suddenly jumped off the staircase.

SPO4 Saquillan said no one at the station knew the man and police did not find any form of identification on him.

Investigators said it could have been a suicide attempt or the result of drug abuse.

Jerome Aning

Reception for new Mexican ambassador to RP

THE MEXICAN community in Manila will welcome Enrique Hubbard, the new ambassador of Mexico to the Philippines, with a reception at the Taqueria Chilanga on Metropolitan Avenue and Pasong Tamo in Makati on July 11 at 6 p.m.

Ambassador Hubbard will be accompanied by his wife Mariana Evelina Frias. A career diplomat, Hubbard was ambassador to Belize before his assignment to Manila. He has also served as consul in Chicago, Illinois and Brownsville, Texas; and consul general in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Miami, Florida.

Hubbard has written three books: "La Nacionalidad Mexicana: Irrenunciable?" (Mexican Nationality: Unrenounceable?), "Belize: Vecino Ignorado" (Belize, Ignored Neighbor) and "Decadas" (Decades).

Taqueria Chilanga, where the reception will be held, is considered by Mexican expats as the "Mexican Esquinita" in Manila.

Death sentence on memorial park killer . . .

(From page A17)

Court records showed that the woman's husband, Noel Andres, argued with Gonzales's son Dino after Andres' Tamarax FX nearly collided with Gonzalez's car near the exit of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on the eve of All Saints' Day in 1998.

Andres cut off Gonzalez's car, got off his FX, approached Gonzales and cursed him for "not knowing how to drive."

Two versions were given the court. One version said Andres only approached Gonzalez's vehicle to advise him to be careful while driving.

Gonzalez's version said Andres cut his car's path, cursed his driving and even moved his FX to prevent his car from leaving the cemetery.

Gonzalez's son Dino emerged from another car and confronted Andres. Gonzalez said Andres returned to his FX and appeared to be getting something.

Afraid for his son, Gonzalez decided to get his gun. His daughter Trisha ran toward him to prevent him from using it but her weight pushed him back, causing him to fire the gun by accident. Andres' wife Feliber was inside the FX when the shot rang out.

A bullet hit Feliber in the left temple. Witnesses brought her to the hospital where she gave birth to a girl by caesarian section the following day.

The Supreme Court ruled that no treachery was involved since Gonzalez did not seek any means to ensure that Feliber would not be able to retaliate.

"The suddenness of the attack, the infliction of a wound from behind the victim, the vulnerable position of the victim at the time of the attack and the fact that the victim was unarmed do not by themselves render the attack treacherous," the court said.

It noted that chance encounters, impulse killing or crimes committed at the spur of the moment or that were preceded by heated arguments "are generally not attended by treachery for lack of opportunity of the accused to deliberately employ a treacherous mode of attack."

The court said the encounter between Andres and Gonzalez was clearly a chance encounter as the two men were total strangers before their vehicles nearly collided.

"Unfortunately, the heated exchange of remarks that followed . . . was fanned by a short temper, which in the case of (Gonzalez) was augmented by the improvident use of a firearm," the court explained.

It said a reading of the transcripts of the case showed that it was Andres who provoked Gonzales when he tailed the latter up to the cemetery exit, cut him off and cursed him.

Andres told the court he was calm at the time but witnesses claimed otherwise.

"Andres' hostile behavior toward Gonzales was evident in (his) statement where he himself noted that (Gonzalez) turned red in anger (while he talked to him)," the court said.

The court said Gonzalez would not have turned red in anger "had Andres been polite, as he claimed he was, in scolding Gonzales. Andres could have simply communicated his disgust over the latter's bad driving when he overtook the appellant's car."

The court noted that Gonzalez did not act belligerently while Andres was cursing him and he only brought out his gun when Andres started shouting at his son.

Gay cadets join drive ...

(From page A17)

crimination in the ROTC program.

Carrying placards denouncing the alleged corruption, sexism and violence in the ROTC, the protesters led by the Sanlakas-Youth and the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino toured university belt schools such as the Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, University of the East and Centro Escolar University.

They told students that if military authorities do not want ROTC abolished, then they should make it voluntary since "no one will be a volunteer for a corrupt and problematic institution."

FEU student and spokesperson for SHE who identified himself only as Mark, said ROTC officials had duped him and other gay students into agreeing to form a "Flower Platoon."

"We ended up being the laughing stock of the ROTC-FEU battalion," Mark told the Inquirer. "Many of our officers treat us as toys: They make us entertainers. We are subjected to unjust punishments and burdened with lots of duties, knowing that many of us can't stand physical strain."

Kampi national chair Erwin Puhawan said that the youth's challenge is clear.

"If the Armed Forces of the Philippines does not want its reserve program abolished, they must do something concrete for the cadets.

"And this could be an optional ROTC (since) simple reforms within the ROTC are not enough."

Contrary to what the AFP claims, Puhawan said that the Constitution does not define military training as compulsory.

"What the charter states is that every Filipino should devote a fraction of his/her time for military training or civil community service," he explained. "The only problem is that military training (is covered by) the National Defense Act while the alternative does not have any substantiating law."

Kampi and Sanlakas-Youth said they would demand from President Macapagal Arroyo and Congress an enabling law for voluntary ROTC and an act providing alternatives for the ROTC program.

They said they would also join other groups who would march to Congress later this month when the President delivers her state-of-the-nation address.

In Bacolod City, Education Secretary Raul Roco said on Saturday that the enrollment in the ROTC should be made optional because the military program has been ineffective.

"You cannot force people to learn from a program that is badly implemented in the first place. So there are occasions for graft, and it is of no consequence to anybody in particular."

But Roco batted for the retention of the Citizens Army Training or CAT, which he described as an extracurricular activity where training is done mostly in the afternoon. ***With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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3	TOMB RAIDER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
5	PANINDA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	MILA
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7	SWORD FISH
8	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	SWORD FISH

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MILA
2	EVOLUTION

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	MILA
2	PANINDA
3	TOMB RAIDER

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
A	PANINDA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	PANINDA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	CITY OF SINS
3	MILA
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
5	ATLANTIS
6	PANINDA
7 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
8 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER
9 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	AYLANTIS
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 (SDDS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	PANINDA
6 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
7 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
8	ACCIDENTAL SPY
9	MILA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
4	MILA
5 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
8	PANINDA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
4	ATLANTIS
5 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	PANINDA
Lords	
Jannet	PANINDA

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SWORD FISH
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ATLANTIS
4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	SWORD FISH
3	ATLANTIS
4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	PANINDA

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	ATLANTIS

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	PANINDA
3	SWORD FISH
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
4	ATLANTIS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	SPOT
4	ATLANTIS
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	MILA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	TOMB RAIDER

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	MILA
3	MAGENTA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DDS)	MILA
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	MILA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	EVOLUTION
3	MILA
4	SWORD FISH

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	PANINDA
2	TOMB RAIDER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SWORD FISH
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	HEAD OVER HEELS
4 (DTS ES)	TOMB RAIDER

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- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

GALLERIA 638-9115-16

- ☆ SWORD FISH
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
- ☆ SWORD FISH
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ SWORD FISH

IMUS (046) 471-8188

- ☆ SWORD FISH
- ☆ PANGAKO IKAW LANG
- ☆ ATLANTIS
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
- ☆ ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ TOMB RAIDER
- ☆ MILA
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ SPOT
- ☆ LUV TEXT

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MADAME X / GIRLS
ODEON	SWORD FISH
ODEON-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
ROBEN	PANINDA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
QUEZON-1	PANINDA
REMAR	SWORD FISH
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY-	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	MILA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-7	CITY OF SINS
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-14	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-4	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-2	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4	HOT LOVER

Now showing: . . .

(From page A20)

title meant. He got her go-signal after he explained the title to her.

Second, and third

Mother Lily would peek at the "Onsehan" rushes and was at first not impressed, until she saw the completed work. The Eugene Asis movie, she is said to have commented, "has got style. *Suwabe.*" She even compared him to Pepe Marcos, known for fine action movies.

Mother Lily's next comment was music to his ears. "You can start on your second movie now," she told him.

"I worked within the budget," Eugene says, adding that the budget was "not big." "Maybe that's why Mother Lily was pleased."

The new filmmaker, who admits he's influenced by Castillo and John Woo ("Mission Impossible II"), has started working on "Sabayan," from his own script. Another action opus with some sex, it also stars Carlos, with Via Veloso. And he's got a third one coming up, this time a sex-and-drama sizzler, also from his own script.

No all-drama movie from him? "I'm basically a happy person," says the director who can sing in videoke and sing-along bars for hours unless the microphone is grabbed away from him. "*Parang hindi bagay sa akin ang drama.*"

Undaunted

The tough task of making a movie has not daunted him. He confesses that even he felt excitement when he watched "Onsehan," especially the action scenes.

The movie-lover-turned-moviemaker loves the creative process. "First you imagine it while you're writing the script. And then you see it moving, with real people making your characters come alive."

He also found pleasure in transforming a place to suit his movie's needs. "Like, I turned the People's Journal building into a dirty warehouse."

The opening of "Onsehan" tomorrow does not stop *Direk* Eugene Asis from dreaming on. "I would like to do action movies with depth, like Castillo's 'Asedillo' and 'Daluyong at Habagat.'"

Is the dreamer a worthy addition to the Philippine movie industry? Will his works inject new blood into the ailing cinema?

"Onsehan," all of one hour and 20 minutes, might give a clue to the answers.

Louie C. Camino

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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NOW SHOWING

SWORD FISH
(R - 18)
Starring:
John Travolta
Hugh Jackman
Halle Berry

July 10 - Tuesday
6:25 PM - Swordfish
8:35 PM - Swordfish
10:45 PM - Swordfish

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Now showing: The movie in his mind

ON JULY 11, the movie in the mind of Eugene Asis will be seen at last on the screen. The movie, a dream, started in the Seventies and grew and changed through the years.

The dream began in the '60s when Eugene, born on the rustic island of Alabat in Quezon province, was a boy going to high school in Lucena City on the mainland. Eugene wanted to be a movie star. "A comedian or an action star," he recalls.

Acting in school plays sparked the dream. "It felt good," he says, "when, after a play, many people would congratulate me."

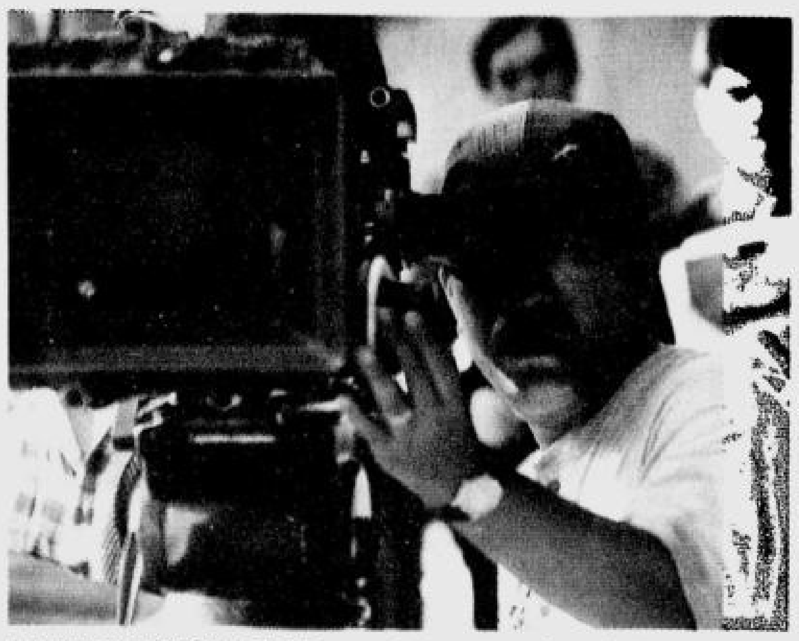
The spark of a dream was dampened and it hissed and almost died when, Eugene, already an architectural student at the National University in Manila, went home to Lucena just when Vilma Santos was making a working visit. "I realized that I couldn't be a movie star," Eugene says. "I realized that movie stars had to be mestizo," among other essentials.

Not tall, not fair skinned, not possessed of a fine nose even and otherwise not having exceptional good looks that people would pay good money to watch, but blessed with a quiet sense of humor, determination, imagination and more than enough open-mindedness to last a lifetime, he did not let the lights go out on his movie dream. He changed his focus from acting to directing.

"My gang and I liked to watch movies, comedy and action movies, and I liked to criticize the movies we saw. I remember I liked such films as Celso Ad. Castillo's 'Daluyong at Habagat' and (Franklin Schaffner's) 'Papillon.' A movie started with the director thinking about it first, and then it became reality. I thought I could think about making movies, too, and I could think them into coming true."

They started coming true for him in the '80s. He took up a semester of filmmaking in 1980 and, two years later, was associate director on the action movie "Ninong," directed by Efren Piñon and starring Rene Imperial. He was assistant director of Gene Palomo on the television series "Don Kamote de la Mancha," unit director and head writer on the Saturday afternoon talk show "Movie Patrol" which Palomo also directed.

After being diverted into a short stint in organizing and promoting Christmas bazaars for a friend, Eugene returned to TV and the movies, writing for TV's "True Confessions ng mga Bituin," writing the scripts for two movies, one of which he also co-directed with actor-comedian Ramon Zamora.



RIGHT DIRECTION. *Direk* Eugene Asis prepares for a shot.

On the side, he had also been writing entertainment columns and features in People's Journal Tonight while also being editor of a sports and show biz magazine for Atlas Publications. In 1990, he became entertainment editor of the tabloid People's Journal, a full-time post that he still holds.

Directing itch

In 1998, "I felt the itch to direct movies again," he says. "All the while, I wanted to direct movies but I had no time."

He saw Mauro Gia Samonte, known director of sexy scripts and movies, on the street and gave him a ride in his car. A week later, Seiko Films called Eugene. Soon, he was working as Samonte's associate director on "Gigil," starring Nini Jacinto and Leonardo Litton.

As associate director, Eugene explains, he rehearsed the actors before the actual takes, he fed them lines during the takes, he took care of continuity—"all the dirty work."

Last year, during a trip to the United States, he attended a cinematography workshop at the Learning Tree University in Northridge, California. "One of my American classmates was a professional pornographer," he remembers.

Also last year, and also with Samonte, he assisted in directing the sex quickie "Kangkong" while writing another film script.

His own at last

On Wednesday, July 11, the movie based on that script will be shown at last — "Onsehan," starring Carlos Morales and Maricar de Mesa. And the full-fledged director is Eugene Asis.

The movie in his mind, the first one that is all his own, is finally showing tomorrow, July 11.

Between Lucena City and "Onsehan," Eugene also got married and fathered two boys, found time to write a *komiks* novel called "Boy Hunter" and to be Noli de Castro's news writer in a 7 a.m. program on radio dzMM.

"Onsehan," in the words of its director, is "hard action, with gunfights, explosions, car chases. Opening *pa lang, barilan na.* I really wanted to do an action movie."

It is the first action movie of Carlos Morales, the hunk of Chito Roño's "Laro sa Baga." Carlos plays two characters, a cop and a robber, while Maricar de Mesa is a "high-class prostitute" that a syndicate uses to catch Carlos the robber. The Carlos and Maricar characters, of course, fall in love with each other.

"Both are dark characters," the director says of the characters he wrote, "and both are looking for love."

When Eugene first submitted the "Onsehan" script to Mother Lily Monteverde, the Regal Films matriarch did not even know what the

NOW/ A19

New animated features make waves

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE GLOBAL animation scene has never been as eventful as it is now. The exceptional success of DreamWorks/PDI's "Shrek" has served notice that a new major player in the field of animated features is here to stay—and to make waves.

Correspondingly, the old Disney studio has decided to make adjustment sin its own way of making animated features. For decades now, Disney has done very well with animated figures that frankly look like cartoons—big eyes and other funny facial features, primary colors, fantasy costumes, etc.

In its new film, "Atlantis: The Lost Empire," the signature Disney look is altered to include less cartoon-y visuals and more subtle colors, as well as characters that are more textured than the silly, slaphappy figures of yore.

As for "Shrek," its contributions include a host of experiments designed to make its visuals more realistic. It also has stronger, warmer characters, and a script that makes them talk in a more contemporary manner, thus delighting not just children, but also adolescents, teenagers, and even adults.

Meanwhile, "Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within" takes the popular video game and transforms it into an animated feature that tackles the special challenge of depicting human characters in a believable manner.

This is deemed particularly difficult because human figures have much more texture and nuance than objects or animals. "Final Fantasy" gives this major challenge its best shot, while also developing some themes related to universal concerns like the struggle between man and nature, the meaning of life, etc.

Clearly, the animation scene will never be the same again!

New TV series

PREMIERING on the AXN channel on July 19 at 9 p.m. is The Immortal," starring **Lorenzo Lamas** as **Raphael Cain**. Back story: In the early 17th century, a French ship sinks off the coast of Japan. The only survivor is a boy (Raphael) who is rescued and trained in the mystical arts by the enigmatic **Yashiro**.

Later, he finds his loved ones stolen by the evil demons Mallos and Vashista. Raphael forges his pain into a powerful sword and vows to battle evil throughout time as an Immortal.

In modern times, Raphael is joined by his trusted squire **Goodwin** and Dr. **Sara Beckman**, a scientist who has created a technology for hunting demons.

TV treats

"BY DEMAND" is back on Channel V Int'l. This month, telecasting from Monday to Friday at 9 p.m. With veejays **Asha** and **Adrian** on top of things, viewers can tune in, log on and request their favorite videos.

Also on Channel V Int'l., the "Spotlight artist" of the month is British pop diva **Geri Halliwell**.

On Star World last June 26, the exciting drama "JAG" launched its fifth season. The protagonist, Lieut. **"Harm" Rabb Jr.**, is a hotshot lawyer for the Judge Advocate General Corps, and his mission is to investigate and prosecute all crimes, accidents and acts of terrorism and espionage related to the Navy and Marine Corps. "JAG" is telecast every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

"Everybody Loves Raymond" is also into its new season on Star World. **Ray Romano** plays a sports columnist who vainly tries to achieve a semblance of domestic tranquillity at home with his wife, daughter, twin boys, meddlesome parents and intrusive brother. Catch "Everybody Loves Raymond" every Monday at 8:30 p.m.

Finally, July is animal month on National Geographic Channel on its "Saturday Unlimited" program every Saturday at 7 p.m. Today, "Polar Bear" takes viewers to the icy habitat of the white bears. On July 14, "The Great Apes" tracks the fascinating man-like creatures in the wild.

On July 21, "Reptilian Encounters" focuses on sea snakes, endangered sea turtles, iguanas and alligators. On July 28, the humpback whale and the Bowhead are featured in "Whale-Watching."

Episode 54 of "Tomorrow's World" airs July 12, 9:30 p.m. In store for the program are "Robotic Monkey," the quest to create machines with artificial intelligence continues; "Space Tourism," passenger trips into orbit which could soon be a reality and as accessible as plane travel today; and "G-Suit" to help pilots counteract G Force using an innovative suit that replaces air with fluids.

Aiko focuses on QC garbage, not trashy rumors

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

JUST because a relationship has ended does not mean that it failed. Both parties are better persons for having touched each other's lives. Ask **Aiko Melendez**.

Aiko has bounced back after splitting up with **Jomari Yllana** but she says she has no regrets at all.

"Jom will always be special to me because he gave me our son Andre (who's turning 3 in September). For now we're better off this way."

Besides, Aiko is too busy—as newly elected councilor of the second district of Quezon City—to mope about the separation.

"I have to learn to keep my humility and appreciate life more," the new politician says. "After all, I'm still very blessed because God gave me a chance to use my popularity for a good cause."

The perennial question remains: What is dirtier, politics or show biz? Even in her new arena, crazy rumors continue to hound Aiko. There's this drivel linking her to Quezon City Mayor **Sonny Belmonte**. There are insinuations that the air would be thick with tension if Aiko crosses paths with Rep. **Chuck Mathay**, whose daughter **Ara Mina** is the alleged cause of Aiko's split-up with Jom.

Knowing Aiko, she would rather focus on Quezon City's pollution and garbage problem than all the trash reports about her personal life.

Jessica in 7th heaven.

JESSICA Rodriguez is in a euphoric mood following her US holiday with hubby **David Bunevacz** and her two kids. Love has given her a better fate because she is one woman who has always loved to the max notwithstanding the insults and intrigues hurled her way.

"We went to the largest ski resort in California called Mammoth," she recalls. "It was the very first time my kids played in the snow. We all went naked into a natural hot spring, then David took the kids fly fishing in a river nearby."

I tease her: "Fortunately his ex, **Anjanette Abayari** who's also in the States; wasn't nearby."

She laughs and then rambles on. "I cooked dinner for them when they came back because they had to put back the fish they caught. It's the law there. After dinner we went to an outdoor spa surrounded by snow-covered mountains. It was such a perfect moment."

Just listening to Jessica made me feel like asking if her one-way ticket to 7th heaven could be transferable to me?

Diet makes rumors die

DIETHER Ocampo just shrugs off talk that **Rosanna Roces** complained about his acting in their upcoming movie "La Vida Rosa."

Says Diet: "I hope people will watch the movie first before jumping to conclusions. As far as I know, *wala naman kaming problema ni* Osang. She's just outspoken. Maybe other people only misinterpreted her."

Don't worry, Diet. Your box-office hits speak for themselves. If there's anything your fans complain about, it's that they can never have enough of you.

SM Cineplex

I attended the opening of Megamall's Cineplex.

Former actress **Lyka Ugarte** is the woman behind the cineplex operations.

She's happy with her new job but she laments, "I'm married to SM. Who will ever fall in love with a woman like me who works late hours?"

I kidded her, "With all the moviegoers lining up daily, you can easily pick one from the crowd and have a date in the cineplex."

I got to meet **Hans Sy** and was a bit surprised to find out that he was so amiable. He said, "You and I have the same dilemma. I'm always in the shadow of my dad and you are in the shadow of your mom."

"I know," I said. "We will always suffer by comparison though we can't deny it also has its advantages."

Then I looked for his brother **Bigboy** whom I met a few months back. "He's not here," said Hans. "I'm sure you think I'm older than him. I just look older."

Now showing at SM Megamall's newly renovated Cineplex: High tech-LED signages . . . brilliantly sharp acoustics and visuals . . . plush fabric seats and, coming soon, a centralized and computerized ticketing booth—all meant o enhance the moviegoing experience in the mall's 12 cinemas.

There's more. State-of-the-art audio and visual technology for crisp picture quality and acoustics using Dolby Digital Surround EX using 3-way speakers, Digital Theater Surround, Dolby SR and Dolby Digital.

Lyka says, "Ticket prices will still be lower than other cinemas. Masa pa rin ang SM as always. Soon our snacks will have a theme. Tipong Hollywood ang dating and there will be a small nook in every cinema so the public can take coffee while waiting for the next screening."

See you at the movies!

PERSONAL: Happy anniversary to my babe! Thanks for loving me. I thank you even more for letting me love you.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

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AYALA CINEMAS
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MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

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TOMB RAIDER - P 13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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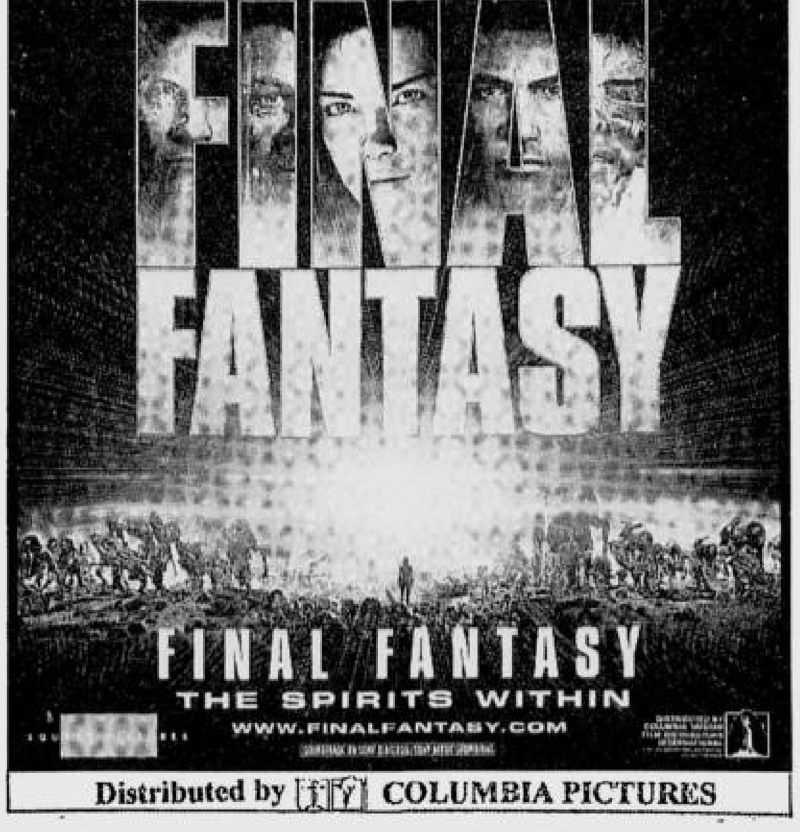

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B1
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2nd quarter growth seen at 3%

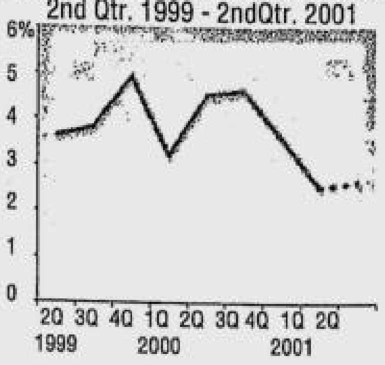
By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday estimated that the country's domestic economy had expanded by 2.8 percent to 3 percent in the second quarter of the year, better than the 2.5-percent growth posted in the first quarter.

In an interview, Canlas said the stronger economic performance for the second quarter was based on improving indicators such as growth in manufacturing volume, employment and imports starting April.

"This is very much in line with our 3.3- to 3.8-percent target GDP growth for the full year," Canlas said.

Gross Domestic Product
2nd Qtr. 1999 - 2ndQtr. 2001



GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period.

For the first time this year, the country's volume of production index picked up by 12.7 percent in April, the highest monthly growth posted since December 2000. Six out of 16 sectors posted annual increases, with electrical machinery and textile manufacturing recording the sharpest growth rates.

Canlas also noted that as of April, the employment rate had expanded by 7 percent across all sectors.

He also said the growth in imports in April and May indicated that there were more placement orders from abroad to support higher domestic production.

After four months of contraction triggered by the economic downturn in the United States and Japan, the country's import bill expanded by 6.5 percent to $2.69 billion in April. Payments for electronics and components rose 6.7 percent to $610.33 million during the month and accounted for 22.7 percent of the total import bill.

Canlas also stressed that the services sector, led by retail and wholesale trade, was expected to have maintained a robust growth during the second quarter. During the first quarter, the sector grew by 4.5 percent compared to 4 percent for the same period last year.

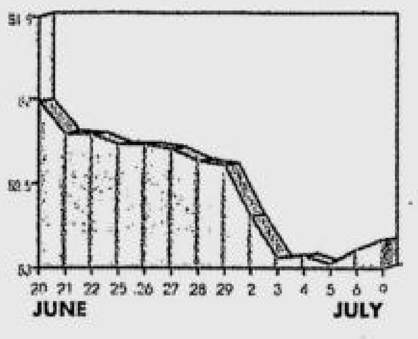
Canlas added that the significant growth in the importation of tele-

2ND QUARTER/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱52.835 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 9, 2001

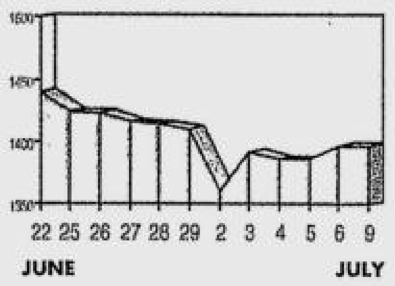
¥125.54 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 125.54 as of 5 p.m., July 9, 2001

GOLD:$266.40/266.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 9, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 0.6%

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE STOCK market's main index closed higher yesterday, buoyed by selective blue-chip buying and a slight recovery of the peso against the dollar, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 8.47 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1405.39 after losing 5.31 points Friday to 1396.92.

The broader All Shares Index declined 7.27 points to 788.20 after closing 5.49 points lower to 795.47 Friday.

But decliners still beat gainers 32 to 27, with 37 issues unchanged.

Volume fell to 443 million shares but value rose to P346 million compared with 1.66 billion shares worth P278 million traded on Friday.

The market climb also came after the government released preliminary growth figures suggesting the economy would avoid a recession, brokers said.

"It means we're not going into a recession," said Mike Ordinanza of PCI Capital Corp.

SHARES/ B6

Taiwan optimistic on RP air links

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAIWAN is more optimistic that the Macapagal administration is committed to ensuring continued normal air travel between Manila and Taipei in the near- to medium-term.

Taipei Economic & Cultural Office representative Benjamin Jyh-Yuan Lo told reporters yesterday that Taiwan "has good reason to believe that the administration now is in better control to ensure that international flights with Manila would be kept at normal functioning status."

Lo said the air row between Philippine Airlines and Taiwan's airlines—EVA Air and China Airlines—"did a lot of damage" to the economy especially to the Philippines.

Lo said the air row cost the country an estimated 50,000 jobs because Filipino overseas foreign workers could not go to Taiwan last year.

From 140,000 Filipino OFWs in Taiwan before the air row, Lo said this number dropped to 90,000 due to the cancellation of flights for nearly a year. With the weakening of Taiwan's

TAIWAN/ B2

Road project gets $254-M funding

By Clarissa S. Batino

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED Manila North Tollways Corp. yesterday closed a $253.5-million financing deal with foreign creditors for the rehabilitation and expansion of the North Expressway.

The agreement was sealed in a ceremony at Malacañang yesterday even after the finance department had rejected the company's request for a risk guarantee from the government. President Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing yesterday.

"There was a request for a performance undertaking and the DOF turned it down. This is a signal of investors' and lenders' confidence because the creditors still approved the loan without the undertaking," Camacho said.

The finance chief said he met with the creditors two weeks ago to tell them that a risk undertaking was no longer necessary.

Of the total financing for the tollway project, $146 million was obtained from Export Finance and Insurance Corp. of Australia, the World Bank's International Finance Corp., and the Asian Development Bank.

A syndicate of commercial banks had also arranged a $107.5-million borrowing from three multilateral lenders—Coface of France, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and another unit of the ADB.

The seven banks that arranged the loan were ABB Structured Finance, Credit Agricole Indosuez, Sumitomo Bank, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Industrial Bank of Japan, West LB, and DG Bank.

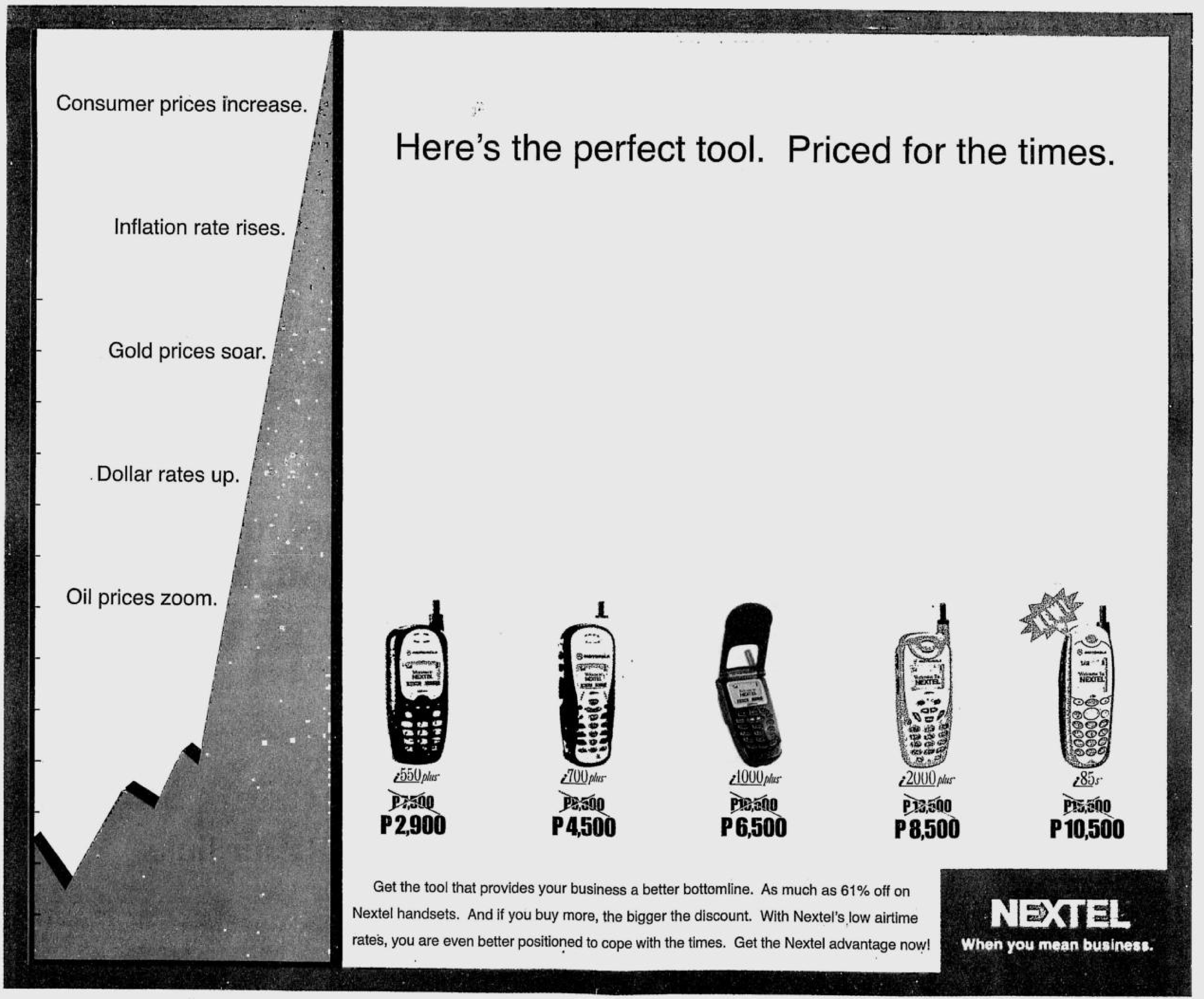
Shareholders led by Lopez-controlled First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. with a 60-percent stake infused an equity of $117.5 million to complete the $371-million investment for the project.

Manila North Tollways is 10-percent owned by Philippine National Construction Corp. and another 10 percent by French Egis Projects. The remaining 20 percent is distributed among foreign mutual funds.

Camacho said the DOF has approved the toll operating agreement of Manila North Tollways.

While Camacho insisted that there were no guarantees given, another finance official claimed the contract contained generous guarantees ap-

ROAD/ B3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Inter-agency council sticks to deficit, revenue forecasts

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordinating Council has retained its P145-billion budget deficit forecast and expectations of P408 billion in revenues from the Bureau of Internal Revenue this year.

"We decided to defer any decision on the deficit and the BIR targets until we have resolved some issues on the assumptions that were used as basis for the targets," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

The DBCC was scheduled to decide in a meeting on Saturday whether to revise the government's budget targets and downgrade its collections target by P5 billion.

Camacho said the council would instead review its targets in the third quarter of the year.

Among the issues to be discussed, he said, was how to classify proceeds from value-added taxes on fuel purchases.

He added that assumptions on non-tax revenue targets would also have to be firmed up before a decision on the government's deficit target could be considered.

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Baguio Country Club	-	800,000
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Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	160,000
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Calatagan	-	160,000
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	-	250,000
Eagleridge "A"	380,000	410,000
Eagleridge "B"	450,000	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	260,000
Fontana "D"	60,000	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	395,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,000,000	-
Manila Polo	-	4,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Pls. Call	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Pls. Call	1,000,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	-	320,000
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	403,000	-
Orchard	-	250,000
Phil. Columbian	80,000	90,000
Puerto Azul	-	150,000
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Royale Tagaytay	Pls. Call	130,000
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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	425,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	290,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,700,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	825,000	
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	950,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	150,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	160,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	260,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	170,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	950,000	
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	
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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NO LAW calls for this cute administration of Gloriaetta to listen to anybody except brilliant newsmen like me. Under no pain of punishment, for instance, it does not have to listen to the European Union.

Last week, the 15-nation union warned the administration about our security problems. This, of course, is none of any foreigner's business.

Whether this country sinks further into the sea of terrorism and violence, or it swims across the flooded streets of Metro Manila, is purely an internal matter.

It's just that the European Union advised the Palace that all the trouble we are having lately could also affect business. Europeans are now among the favorite customers of kidnappers. Thus, nobody can say if European companies will kill just to invest here.

* * *

ROLAND Van Remoortole, the Belgian ambassador to the European Union, who is its new president, aired the warning himself. He talked about security in the Philippines during the turnover of the presidency.

There in Europe, they take turns for the presidency. Here, we spend a fortune to change our president, and we are just starting to learn to do it by brute military force.

Anyway, it's the turn of Belgium to take up the presidency, and the new president remarked on the troubled Philippines during the turnover itself.

I don't know if anybody in Europe even heard the words of warning from the new president about security problems so far away from home as the Philippines. Let's just say that the turnover rites were not done in a secret cave deep in the ocean somewhere.

* * *

THE POINT is we must take the warning seriously. It's the head of an important economic grouping as the European Union who's talking here, sister! What he says may be quite important to us.

Our trade with Europe only amounts to more than 13 billion euros every year. The European Union has also been the largest source of foreign direct investments in the Philippines for the past 10 years.

Next only to the United States and Japan, the European Union is also our third largest supplier. Officially, that is! China should be moving up fast, I know, but only if you count all that blatant smuggling being done from there into here.

* * *

SO there, even Europe thinks our security problems affect the economy. Maybe everybody is looking for a little decisiveness, perhaps similar to the effective albeit crude handling of the problem by the administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

And what is this cute administration doing aside from Interior Secretary Jose Lina and company doing a lot of publicity work and, on the side, appearing on television?

Surely the world is watching. If we take the hint from the new president of the European Union, the world is even getting nervous. This is bad for business.

In this regard, I cannot bet that Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who doubles as foreign affairs secretary, is not as useless as most executives thought he would be when Gloriaetta chose him as her new improved VP over other, far more brilliant men.

* * *

ANYWAY, blame the peso's month-long weakness on our security problem. Just take a look at the reports abroad. When they talk of the recent peso depreciation, the security problem always gets honorable mention.

Only last weekend, the Asian Wall Street Journal took another dig at the Philippines. The bearer of the usual bad news on our country noted that consumer prices were going up fast. Among the major causes of inflation, according to the report, were the increases in fuel prices and—here it is again—the peso depreciation.

You can hardly blame the government when oil prices go crazy. It seems this cute administration is handling the issue well. Despite hard times, Gloriaetta's popularity is going up. In comparison, even the oil price increase was blamed on Wrist Band earlier.

Still, this cute administration cannot play demure on the peso depreciation. This has a lot to do with the erosion of business confidence as an offshoot of the security problem. There's no such thing as security of demure here. Sorry about that!

* * *

BARCLAYS Capital, according to the same news item, was looking at an exchange rate of P60 per dollar in six to 12 months. *Aray ko!* So more inflation coming up!

Both Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, of course, should downplay such a discouraging forecast.

I am sure the duo would say anything to build up confidence in the peso. What the market looks for, nevertheless, is a little action short of either of them cross-dressing.

And even our parish priest tried to help. Today's bad times, he said on the pulpit last Sunday, might be God's way of telling us to rely on Him for strength. We should sacrifice, in short. Not long ago, the only solution was to force somebody to resign.

* * *

TO THINK, early in this administration, the Makati types sang praises about the return of confidence. It was all they could sing about the new administration then, of course. I can only wonder what they are going to sing about now that confidence is shaken.

Moreover, based on word from the Department of Labor and Employment, the Palace is under pressure to dictate a large increase in the minimum pay. Will it give in?

Of course, somebody earlier also promised the huge pay increase. A promise may be a promise, my Apong Oning used to say, but in politics, a promise is just a premise. It's something to start with for getting support to get into power.

Peso 'in danger' of sliding to 55–Standard Chartered

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

STANDARD Chartered Bank said yesterday that the peso was in danger of sliding to 55 to a dollar in the next three months.

"In the next three months, I foresee that the peso would weaken to 55, although it may improve a year from now," Gerard Lyons, head of Standard Chartered's global markets research division, told reporters.

Lyons did not share the Macapagal administration's optimism that the peso would bounce back in the coming months.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who used to head Deutsche Bank AG's local office, said the peso would advance to between 48 and 50 in a year. His six-month estimate was at 50 to 52.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura shared Camacho's optimism and said the local currency should recover to a level closer to 50 to a dollar by year's end.

The peso closed yesterday at 52.835 from Friday's 52.89.

Standard Chartered's Lyons said economic and political problems, aggravated by a worsening peace-and-order situation, would continue to drag the peso lower in the next three months.

"The collapse in inflows could not be reversed overnight. There is a capital flight in the Philippines because its fiscal policy is not credible," he said.

He added that the government was also dealing with a long-running budget deficit. With the Philippine economy moving slowly, he said, the government was facing a difficult task shoring up its revenues.

Another drag on the Philippine economy was the economic slowdown in its major export markets, the United States and Japan, he added.

He said Philippine gross domestic product would likely settle at 2.5 to 3.5 percent.

"A lot will depend on how the government could put the house on order and in putting in place structural reform measures," he said.

RFM nears deal to sell Cosmos

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

SHARE prices of homegrown beverage manufacturer RFM Corp. and its bottling unit, Cosmos Bottling Corp., surged yesterday on expectations that the group was nearing a deal to settle its bond obligations.

Both among the most actively traded counters at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RFM and Cosmos rose 20.69 percent and 11.49 percent to close at P2.10 and P4.85.

Asked whether a buy-in deal involving Cosmos had been finalized, RFM spokesperson Ramon Lopez said there was "nothing concrete yet."

US-based PepsiCo and San Miguel Corp., which recently regained control of local Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., are among the groups keen on acquiring Cosmos.

Persons familiar with the matter said RFM was now leaning toward closing a deal with San Miguel, and an acquisition price of at least P14.5 billion was being considered.

While RFM earlier confirmed reports that a strategic tie-up with Pepsi was being considered, industry sources said the latest twist was that the Concepcion family, which owned RFM, was reconsidering an offer from San Miguel.

They stressed, however, that a strategic tie-up with PepsiCo was still on the table. The proposal was for the US firm to take a minority stake in Cosmos. The long-term objective would be to merge Cosmos with PepsiCo's local unit, Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc.

RFM and Cosmos shares were also lifted by reports that RFM would be able to cover a substantial portion of its overdue debts using proceeds from the sale of some of its assets.

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Social Security System chair Vitaliano Nañagas (left) confers with Social Weather Stations president and Bishops Businessmen's Conference co-chair Mahar Mangahas (right) and BBC national co-chair Jose Concepcion (standing) during a BBC forum at the Asian Institute of Management. Nañagas discussed the SSS' "covenant of service" program that he said would eliminate backlogs in the processing of social security claims. The program will be launched in the third quarter of the year.

DTI chief makes pitch for non-sugar exports

BACOLOD CITY—Trade Secretary Mar Roxas said Sunday that local manufacturers should tap funding assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry to develop the country's non-sugar exports.

Roxas said in a meeting with leaders of the Association of Negros Producers that more alternative products should be developed in Negros to lessen the island's dependence on sugar.

The sugar industry should use the "good times" it was enjoying to develop alternative markets so that it would not be "so overly hurt" should bad times set in, he stressed.

ANP is composed of at least 70 local manufacturers of handicraft and furniture, among others. The group consists mostly of wives of sugar producers and businessmen who were rallied by then Negros Gov. Daniel Lacson in 1986 to organize and diversify out of sugar to help the economy of Negros Occidental get back on its feet amid a sugar crisis.

Roxas told the group's members that loans amounting to as much as P10 million could be taken from the P5-billion fund of the National Development Co. to enable them to continue selling their products abroad.

"The NDC is on a wholesale level so we need to find an intermediary to avail of the loan for the ANP," he said.

This intermediary, he added, could either be the Bacolod city government, Land Bank of the Philippines or a local rural bank.

"Think big, operate small," Roxas told local producers. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Taiwan optimistic on RP air links

(From page B1)

Lo said the air row cost the country an estimated 50,000 jobs because Filipino overseas foreign workers could not go to Taiwan last year.

From 140,000 Filipino OFWs in Taiwan before the air row, Lo said this number dropped to 90,000 due to the cancellation of flights for nearly a year. With the weakening of Taiwan's economy, Lo said it has become difficult to regain the lost jobs of Filipino OFWs with the restoration of flights.

Lo said Taiwan has signed a direct hiring agreement with the Philippine government to expedite the deployment of Filipino OFWs. "Between a Filipino who speaks good English and a Thai worker who doesn't speak English, Taiwan businessmen prefer Filipinos," Lo said.

But Lo remained cautious on his government's outlook for their economy, which he said could slow to a 4-percent growth this year from 6 percent in 2000, a big drop from Taiwan's double-digit growth in the last three decades.

On the security problem issue, Lo said he was confident that the government would be able to resolve the Abu Sayyaf issue and the rise in kidnapping incidents.

Prospective NSC buyers given Sept. 30 deadline

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

ROXAS II

THE GOVERNMENT-LED body tasked to oversee the revival of National Steel Corp. has given prospective investors of the failed steel giant until the end of this quarter or Sept. 30 to submit their proposals to lease and operate the Iligan steel factory which has been closed since November 1999.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, chair of the NSC evaluation committee, said the group would give emphasis to both the financial and technical capability of the prospective investor to re-start, operate and market products of NSC.

Roxas said the NSC committee—composed of representatives from NSC's Malaysian owners, local creditors and government agencies—would tap an independent technical adviser that would evaluate the prospective investor's expertise to run NSC's Iligan plant.

The prospective investor should have the technical know-how with proven track record in the steel business and the capability to protect both plant and property from damage.

This would have equal weighting with the prospective investor's financial status (including proof of financial resources base and past performance) as well as proposed strategies in marketing NSC's finished products and sourcing of raw materials.

Prospective investors would have to submit a broad range of proposals, which include the duration of lease at varying lengths.

Based on published reports, interested investors of NSC are Swiss commodities trader Glencore, Cathay Pacific Steel Co. and Allengoal.

Roxas stressed that there would be no bidding because the choice of the committee was not binding on Hottick-Renong Bhd. and the creditor-banks led by Philippine National Bank. The creditors and owners of NSC have a pending case on the liquidation of the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is also a member of the committee.

But Roxas said this would not diminish the importance of this move, which he considered a major breakthrough in the long-running stalemate, because it would address the more pressing issue of preventing NSC's multibillion-peso assets from crumbling due to inactivity.

SEC wants LGUs, trade dep't to oversee lending investors

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas plan to push for a new law to transfer regulation over lending investors to local government units or the trade and industry department.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said last week the Commission would work closely with the BSP to craft such a proposed law and lobby its adoption by Congress.

The SEC last week decided to require new lending investors to register as finance companies subject to capital and reportorial requirements, though the move would not affect the operations of 5,061 lending investors registered as corporations with the Commission.

The regulatory agency has received alarming information regarding these lenders' unchecked activities. Several lending investor companies have allegedly violated their corporate charters and the country's securities laws when these borrowed from more than 19 lenders in order to fund their lending operations, Bautista said.

An amendment last year to the General Banking Act transferred jurisdiction over lending investors from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to the SEC. However, there was no specific law authorizing the SEC to regulate these lending investors or promulgate rules governing their activities.

The justice department has yet to respond to the Commission's request last year for a definite ruling on which government agency was responsible for regulating the small lenders, Bautista explained.

The SEC has no control over lending investors registered with the trade and industry department as single proprietorships or partnerships.

The latest policy decision of the SEC calls for lending investors applying for incorporation to register themselves as finance companies, forcing them to comply with a set of capital and reportorial requirements imposed by the regulatory agency.

Under the rules of the SEC, finance companies must have a capital base of 10 million if they are operating within Metro Manila, P5 million in other cities and 2.5 million for municipalities.

There are 174 finance companies licensed by the SEC.

Napocor eyes asset sale to Meralco

STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. plans to resume talks with power distributor Manila Electric Co. for the sale of what it calls power subtransmission lines valued at more than P500 million.

"We are reopening talks with Meralco," Asisclo Gonzaga, chief operating officer of Napocor, said.

Napocor, the country's largest supplier of electricity, had discussed the possible sale of its transmission assets to Meralco in 1998 but the talks bogged down because of disagreements on pricing.

The power subtransmission lines to be sold include those in Bulacan and Cavite provinces just outside Manila.

The franchise area of Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, covers Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The government plans to privatize debt-laden Napocor by selling its generating plants and transmission lines as part of a program to restructure the power industry.

Reuters

2nd quarter growth seen at 3%

(From page B1)

communication accessories indicated a continued expansion in this sector.

The economic planning chief also said that the faster releases of funds by the government for infrastructure projects after the May 14 congressional elections should have created some positive impact.

"Prior to the May elections, there was a ban on the release of funds, but after that, the government was able to spend more for infrastructure," he said.

Asked on the impact of typhoon Feria, which left a death toll of more than a hundred, as well as millions of damage on property and crops, Canlas said he had already asked the National Economic and Development Authority's (Neda) technical committee to assess the impact on the economic figure for the third quarter.

But he acknowledged that the country's inflation rate for July might be slightly higher than the 6.8-percent projection he had given earlier due to the typhoon and the volatility in oil prices.

An upsurge in food and fuel prices alongside pressures from the peso depreciation and school year opening jacked up the country's annual inflation rate to 6.7 percent in June from 6.5 percent in May.

Road...

(From page B1)

10 percent by French Egis Projects. The remaining 20 percent is distributed among foreign mutual funds.

Camacho said the DOF has approved the toll operating agreement of Manila North Tollways.

While Camacho insisted that there were no guarantees given, another finance official claimed the contract contained generous guarantees approved by the Tollways Regulatory Board.

"When we read the contract, the wordings of the guarantee were very general, which means the government may end up shouldering all risks, including those it had absolutely no control over," said the finance official.

The Macapagal administration would like to prevent itself from incurring more debts because of these guarantee arrangements.

A finance official noted that the only risks that government must ensure were political risks, regulatory risks, and right-of-way risks. But items like return volume of commuters, and sales should not be the government's problem.

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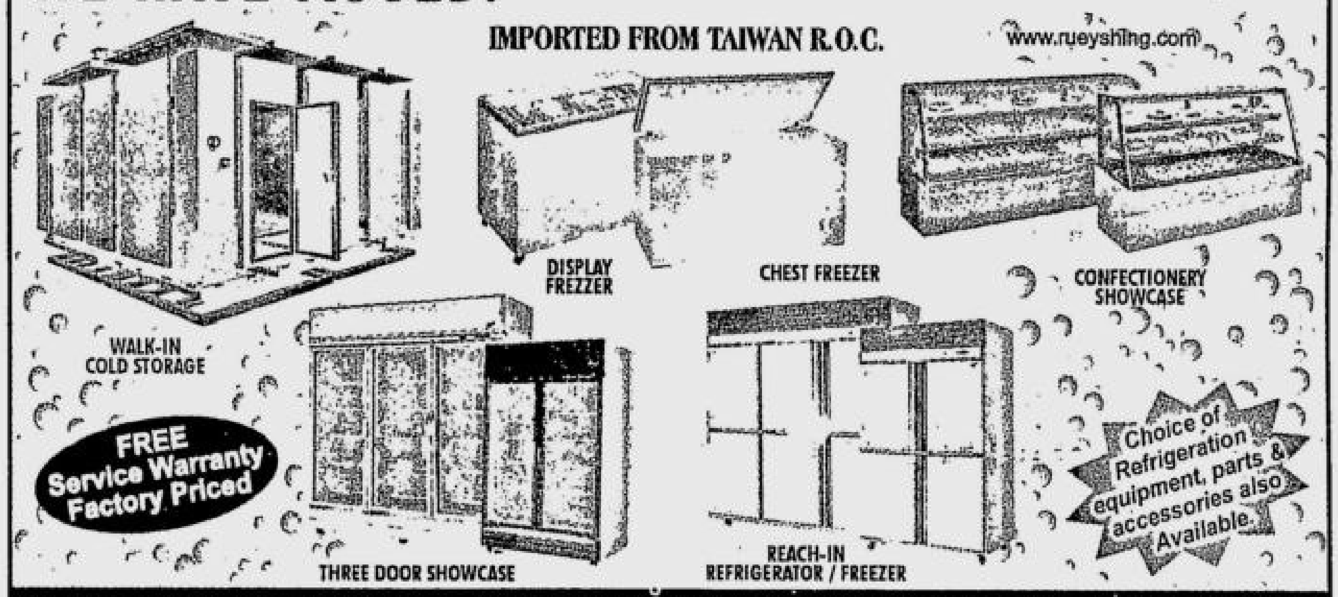
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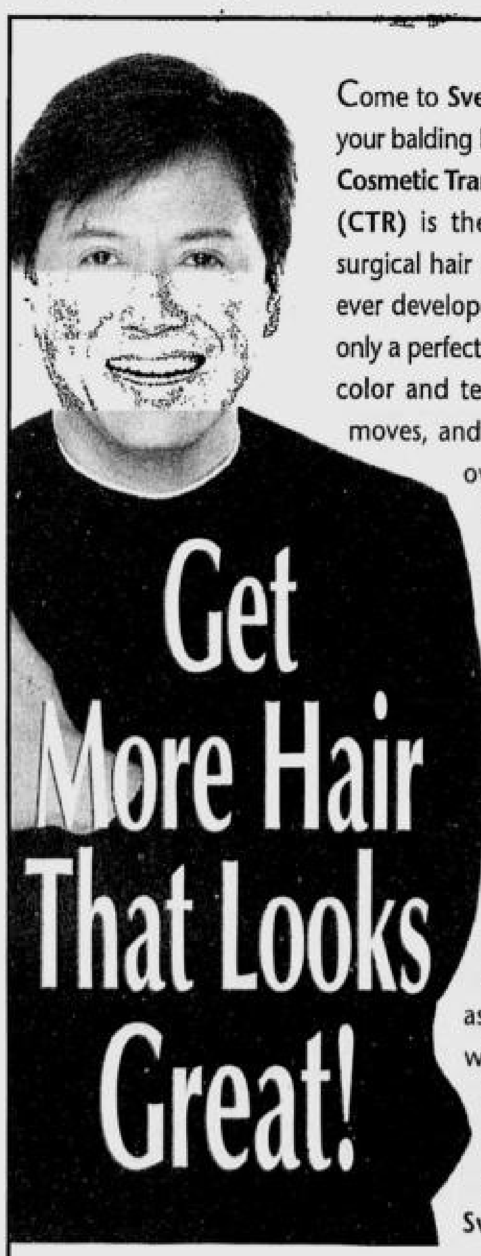
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Health
JOSE R. REYES MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
Manila

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS

The Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center invites sealed bid for the delivery of foodstuffs for the period SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2001.

Bid documents shall be released from **July 12-18, 2001** at the Dietary Department, ground floor, JRRMMC, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on **July 19, 2001** at the Dietary Department, ground floor, JRRMMC, 10:00 AM.

Sealed bids shall be submitted at the Dietary Department, ground floor, JRRMMC, not later than **10:00 a.m., July 24, 2001**, after which time the same shall be publicly opened.

JRRMMC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR DEFECT AND ACCEPT ANY BID WHICH IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **MA. ALICIA M. LIM, M.D.**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI -- July 10 & 11, 2001)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.- CORA

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 911-6433/911-6001 loc. 6592

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, with an approved budget of One Hundred Three Million Six Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Pesos (P103,656,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***July 11, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***July 24, 2001*** at ***10:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***August 15, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***1:00 p.m.*** at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 9 & 10 2001)

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"Happy are those who are humble;
They will receive what God has promised!"

Salvador "Doding" L. Carlos

peacefully passed into eternal life
on July 8, 2001 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife;
Gigi

Children
Anna & Sam, Jigs, and **Reina & Cito**

Grandchildren
Justin and **Katrina**

Brothers, sisters and in-laws
Tony (†) **& Elsa, Ito & Mining, Lita, Arturo & Maggie,**
and **Cristina & Tony**
Fely, Chitong & Marica, Ben & Cleofe, and **Monching**

Cousins, nieces and nephews and other relatives,
request the reader to remember in their prayers
this good and humble man.

His body lies in state at the Shrine of
Mount Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City. Crypt.

Cremation follows the 8:30 a.m. Mass on
Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at the main altar.

We lovingly remember
our dearest *TATAY* on his
First Death Anniversary

ESTANISLAO VARGAS MARASIGAN

June 22, 1915 — July 10, 2000

The family and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be offered at the following Churches on July 10, 2001:

Parish of St. Isidore
Cuenca, Batangas 6:00 a.m.

Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish 6:45 a.m.
BF Homes, Phase III, Parañaque 7:00 p.m.

Resurreccion Parish
BF Homes, Phase I, Parañaque 6:30 a.m.

Aurora Waway A. Roño

of San Pablo City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 6, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her loving husband **Tony Sr.** (†); son **Tony Jr.**; daughter-in-law **Luz**; grandchildren **Elmo** and **Debbie, Ella** and **Rodel**; great grandchildren **Andrew, Zachary, Lindsay,** adopted children and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence, Roño's place, San Pablo City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 13, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at San Pablo Cathedral.

IN MEMORY OF THE
SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LATE

MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN

24 October 1927 - 11 JULY 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Wednesday, 11 July 2001
in the following churches:

CEBU		MANILA	
Cebu Memorial Park	5:30 P.M.	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	7:00 A.M.
Santo Rosario Church	5:00 A.M.	Sanctuario de San Antonio	12:15 & 6:00 P.M.
Redemptorist Church	7:00 A.M.	St. Alphonsus de Liquori Church	6:00 P.M.
San Nicolas Church	7:00 A.M.	CEBU	
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	7:30 A.M.	Mabolo Parish Church	5:00 P.M.
Basilica del Santo Niño	8:00 A.M.	San Vicente Parish Church (Bogo)	5:00 P.M.
Capitol Parish Church	12:15 P.M.	Guadalupe Parish Church	6:00 P.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus	12:15 P.M.	Sacred Heart Parish Church	6:00 P.M.

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
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Call us at 897-2535

FR. RAIMUNDO E. ARGARATE, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Sunday, 8 July 2001.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,
Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.

Funeral Mass: at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th July at Oratory of St. Ignatius,
Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.,
immediately after the 8:00 a.m., Mass on Wednesday, 11th July.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ATTY. MARTIN A. GALIT, SR.

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 01, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest
appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who,
in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us
in the hour of bereavement.

CAPT. FRANCISCO P. ARCIAGA

(Retired)

March 27, 1925—July 3, 2001

Passed on to his eternal rest on July 3, 2001 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife **Amanda D. Carrillo**; children **Orlando, Grizelda, Daisy, Bituin, Ma. Franchette** and **Ma. Claudette**; in-laws **Yoko Sato** and **Eduardo Devanadera**; grandsons **Toshie, Ken, Andrew, Bryan** and **Allan.**
His body lies in state at his residence at 502 M.H. del Pilar St., Pila, Laguna.
Interment will be on Thursday, July 12, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Pila, Laguna.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

BENSAN INDUSTRIES, INC. ("BENSAN"), a domestic corporation, is lawfully engaged in the business of treating, re-refining, reprocessing, handling, storing, and/or properly disposing used/waste oil. It is duly accredited by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Departmen tof Environment and Natural Resources as a registered re-refiner of used/waste oil.

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Transactions entered into with other entities purported acting on behalf of BENSAN will not bind, and shall not be honored by, BENSAN. The public is requested to report incidents involving unauthorized representations by other entities/persons to Ms. Yvette S. Santos-Tan at Tel. Nos. **364-3896, 364-4859, 364-1696** or **364-4866**, or to write BENSAN at 353 EDSA, Caloocan City, Metro Manila.

Caloocan City, Metro Manila, 2nd of July 2001.

(PDI - July 10, 2001)

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Investors snap up shares of IT firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTORS yesterday snapped up shares of software service firm SQL Wizard Inc., the first local stock to brave the battered market this year.

The offering of four million shares or 20 percent of total equity at P1.75 each was fully subscribed on the first day of offering, indicating the market's appetite for smaller capitalized companies with good fundamentals, traders said.

The underwriting agreement between Pacific Asia Capital Corp. and SQL Wizard was signed yesterday, the first day of its five-day offer period. The shares will start public trading on July 20.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said SQL Wizard was a good company to jumpstart the small and medium enterprise (SME) board of the exchange.

"With its good track record, it has the potential to declare cash dividends," he said.

Pacific Asia managing director Benito Soliven III said he was confident of a warm reception for SQL Wizard because "it shows the ingenuity of the Filipino in the area of information technology."

SQL Wizard develops and markets software and is an Oracle-certified solutions partner.

For this year, SQL Wizard is projecting a 43-percent growth in net income to P5.7 million from the P4 million recorded last year on the back of a 28-percent rise in revenue, company CFO Antonio Lasala said.

Company chair Enrique Pelaez said the company would take the challenge of listing on the bigger board in the future, even if SQL Wizard would initially list on the SME or the PSE's third board.

The SME board opens up equities trading opportunities to firms with at least P20 million to P100 million in capitalization.

Pelaez said that for SMEs like SQL Wizard whose access to local credit is limited, the third board provided a good opportunity to source new funds for expansion.

The net proceeds from the SQL offering will amount to P5.97 million, which will be used for product development, research and training and other capital expenditures. The company will soon launch three new application products on general insurance, general accounting and enrollment system for schools and universities.

DISCLOSURES

ALSONS Cement Corp. cancelled its Aug. 16 special stockholders' meeting due to delays in the procurement of pertinent clearances and approvals from regulatory offices.

* * *

MACROASIA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 20, 3 p.m. at the Kachina Room of Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of June 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PRUDENTIAL Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 8, 4 p.m. at the 3/F boardroom of Prudential Bank Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City. Only stockholders as of June 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILTREAD Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 25, 3 p.m. at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders as of May 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 24, 3:30 p.m. at the University's boardroom in San Miguel, Manila. Only stockholders as of July 3 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

TRADING for the shares of **Wellex Industries Inc., Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc., Unioil Resources & Holdings Co. Inc., Sinophil Corp., RFM Corp., Philippine National Construction Corp., Philcomsat Holdings Corp., Fil-Estate Corp.** and **Benguet Corp.** shall be suspended on July 16 unless the companies submit the structured reportorial requirements of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, July 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	72	71	71	43,400
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35	35	96,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	205	206	45,100
Philippine National Bank	45	45	45	45	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	26.5	25.5	26.5	71,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	150,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	250	250	1,410
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1425	1410	1410	3,910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1205	1205	1200	1205	6,010
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	3,600
Diversified Fin. Network	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.54	3,070,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	450
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.54	0.49	0.51	230,000
Piltel	0.57	0.63	0.57	0.63	570,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	80,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	710	700	705	126,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.036	0.036	31,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38.5	39	38.5	39	14,400
Manila Electric Co. B	53.5	53.5	52	52.5	851,800
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.1	5,755,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.48	2.5	1,795,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3.	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					Engineering
Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	1,278,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.1	5.2	4.85	4.85	9,749,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	181,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	216,000
RFM Corp.	1.86	2.1	1.86	2.1	17,519,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	42	40.5	42	26,100
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	48	47.5	48	291,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.84	370,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7	6.9	6.9	38,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	54,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.22	1,828,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	9,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.205	950,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.9	1,851,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	600,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.16	0.12	0.14	3,850,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	120,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	281,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	1,800
Ipeople Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	123,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	7,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	136,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.78	0.74	0.78	80,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	410,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.46	680,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	15,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	940,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	60,000
Music Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	24,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	43,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.5	2,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	210,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	495	495	495	495	1,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	467,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	43,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	60,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
Philweb.Com Inc -Warrants	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	24,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,542,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	184,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2,500,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,505,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	37,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	50,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	42,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.04	0.04	0.035	0.038	45,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	102,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	29,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	1,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	15,000,000

Shares rise 0.6%

(From page B1)

Volume fell to 443 million shares but value rose to P346 million compared with 1.66 billion shares worth P278 million traded on Friday.

The market climb also came after the government released preliminary growth figures suggesting the economy would avoid a recession, brokers said.

"It means we're not going into a recession," said Mike Ordinanza of PCI Capital Corp.

Leading the day's advancers were Cosmos Bottling Corp. and its parent company, RFM Corp. Shares of Cosmos are on the rise on continued speculation RFM will sell part or all its 84-percent stake in the beverage company at a premium to its current market price.

Another gainer was San Miguel, which is reportedly actively seeking to acquire Cosmos among other possible acquisitions.

Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities, said the local market's earlier fall compared with that of other markets has allowed it to largely ignore a 2.2-percent loss by the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the 3.7 percent fall of the Nasdaq Friday following profit warnings.

"It's probably a good thing now that we've gone down ahead of everybody," said Vistan, noting that with a major support of 1380 on the index, the market's downside is a bit limited. *AP*

CURRENCIES

July 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.178967	1.000000	52.9010
Japan	Yen	0.009359	0.007938	0.4199
United Kingdom	Pound	1.664466	1.411800	74.6856
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151165	0.128218	6.7829
Switzerland	Franc	0.657538	0.557724	29.5042
Canada	Dollar	0.774362	0.656814	34.7461
Singapore	Dollar	0.645903	0.547855	28.9821
Australia	Dollar	0.598674	0.507795	26.8629
Bahrain	Dinar	3.127400	2.652661	140.3284
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.314357	0.266638	14.1054
Brunei	Dollar	0.644420	0.546597	28.9155
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.026008	0.022060	1.1670
UAE	Dirham	0.321069	0.272331	14.4066
Korea	Won	0.000915	0.000776	0.0411
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.848200	44.8706
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.433678	22.9420
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129307	6.8405
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.384896	20.3614
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061641	3.2609
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021026	1.1123
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000438	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142657	7.5467
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004231	0.2238
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005098	0.2697
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021026	1.1123
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.076992	56.9740

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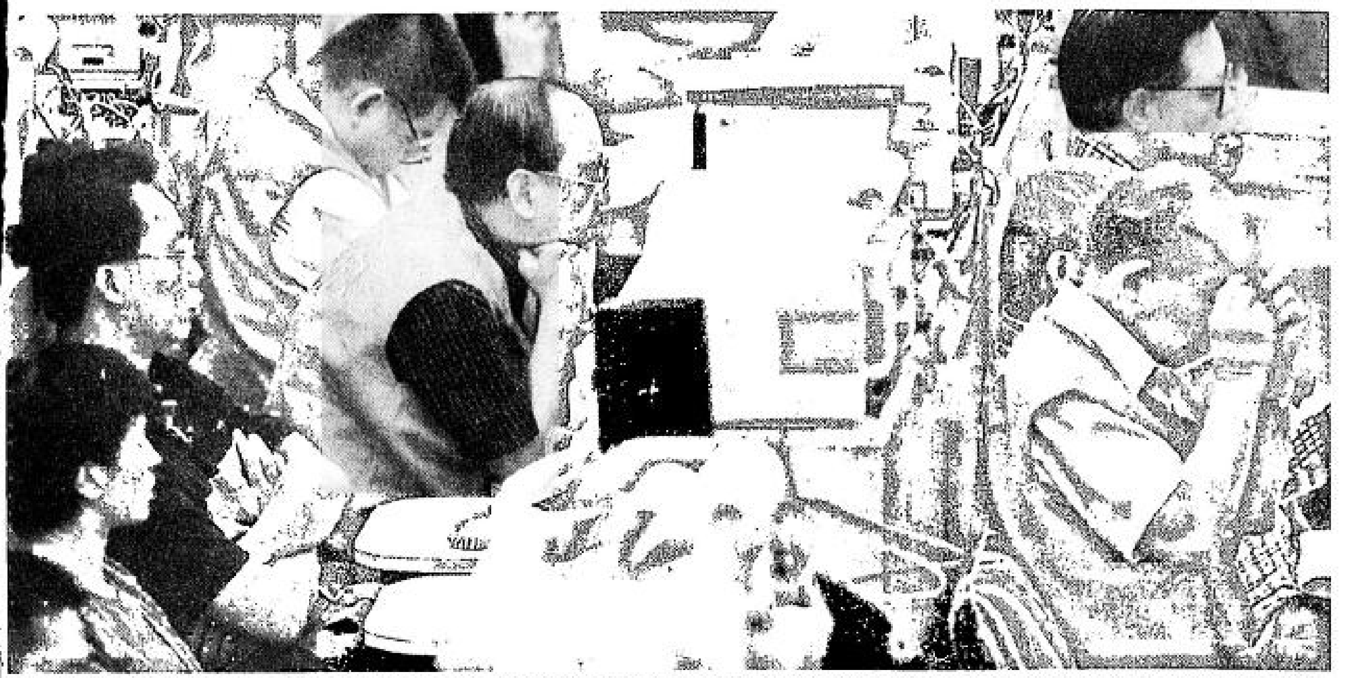
Fresh US slide casts pall over Asian stocks



TRADERS watch the stock index at Hong Kong's stock exchange, as Hong Kong stocks end the morning session sharply lower, pulled down by telecommunications and technology issues. More profit warnings in the United States dampened hopes that a swift global economic recovery was at hand. The Hang Seng index was down 2.99 percent at 12,611 points by the midday break. AP

SINGAPORE—A fresh slide in US stock markets and fears of more poor corporate earnings news cast a heavy pall over Asian shares Monday and presaged a renewed decline in Europe.

Markets took little solace from a weekend meeting in Rome of finance ministers from the world's seven richest nations, where the official line was the worst was probably over and the United States should lead the world back to growth next year.

Brokers and fund managers said stock markets were focused on the near-term reality of quarterly earnings news and projections over the rest of the year, and they were bracing for another roller-coaster week.

Asian stock markets fell virtually across the board Monday following another sell-off on Wall Street as more corporate profit warnings dashed hopes of an economic—and earnings—recovery.

A US report showing the world's largest economy lost jobs at a much faster pace than expected in June was another bearish factor dampening hopes for a rapid turnaround.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 227.18 points to 10,252.68, its lowest close in almost three months, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite index fell 75.95 points to 2,004.16, just above the key psychological 2,000-point level.

Analysts saw little immediate impact in Asia from cable television company Comcast Corp.'s $44.5-billion stock bid for AT&T Corp.'s broadband cable business, a move that would create the world's biggest provider of broadband communications.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average fell more than 2 percent at one stage Monday afternoon with a continued spell of profit warnings from US and European tech firms stoking fears that Japanese peers might soon follow suit.

"The macroeconomic picture is not pretty and all signs are that it will be even worse a month from now," said Hiroaki Muto, general manager of investment trust fund management at Nissay Asset Management.

The benchmark Nikkei average was down 1.72 percent at 12,094.43 in mid-trade. It has lost around 20 percent since a year-to-date high of 14,556.11 on May 7 at the height of hopes for structural reforms from new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was down 2.99 percent at 12,611 in mid-trade. The index touched a low of 12,583.33 points, its lowest since April. Early losses were led by technology and telecom heavyweights.

South Korean shares dropped to a 10-week low by noon, with the Korea composite stock price index down 3.22 percent at 559.9, a level not seen since April 27. *Reuters*

China immune to global slowdown

BEIJING—Confident despite a slowing global economy, China said Monday that nothing could derail its impressive growth this year—not even a hard landing for the US economy.

State-owned newspapers quoted Qiu Xiaohua, the deputy director of the State Statistics Bureau, as saying even in a "worst-case scenario," gross domestic product this year would expand by 7 to 8 percent.

That compared with annualized growth last year of 8 percent. Actual growth in the first quarter of this year was 8.1 percent compared with a year earlier.

China is counting on strong domestic demand to give it immunity from weakening export growth.

So while other export-driven Asian economies are being severely pinched by a slowdown in the US economy, the Chinese economy appears to be operating on an entirely different cycle.

It is underpinned by continued massive government spending on infrastructure. And economists see plenty of scope for further pump priming, for instance, by encouraging the growth of private home ownership, or raising incomes in the vast and impoverished rural interior.

"Even allowing for the worst-case scenario, such as a hard landing for the US economy and continued gloom over the global economy, China's economy is fully guaranteed to grow 7 to 8 percent this year," Qiu said.

"The external environment will not have much influence on China's economy," he said, adding that domestic demand accounted for about 93 percent of GDP.

Qiu insisted that despite the huge fiscal stimulus, which kicked off in 1998 after the Asian economic crisis, "there is no danger of inflation in general." He said the biggest concern was to prevent deflation.

Nevertheless, Qiu said growth in the second half would be slightly lower than in the first half because of faltering export growth. He hoisted several other red warning flags, including a lower-than-expected increase in farmers' incomes and rising unemployment.

"Also, there is a problem of overinvestment in some industries, which already have a glut in supply."

Private Chinese economists agree that China's economy is likely to weather the global slowdown far better than its Asian neighbors.

"The Chinese economy is fundamentally reliant on domestic demand," said Hu Angang, a professor of Economics at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

China's GDP growth peaked at 14.2 percent in 1992 and slowed steadily to 1999, when it expanded 7.1 percent year-on-year. But the economy turned a corner last year when it grew by 8 percent.

A Reuters poll of regional economists on Monday forecast China's gross domestic product would grow 7.97 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2001.

Last month, a Reuters poll forecast year-on-year growth of 7.8 percent in 2001 and 8 percent in 2002.

Exports were equivalent to 23 percent of China's GDP of 8.94 trillion yuan ($1.07 trillion) last year, although net exports—exports minus imports—accounted for just 2.2 percent of the economy. *Reuters*

IMF has lost credibility, says Nobel prize-winning economist

ROME—The International Monetary Fund has lost credibility, according to Nobel prize-winning economist Robert Mundell, adding that it is up to the G8 to work at the world's problems alongside the United Nations.

"The IMF and the World Bank have lost credibility, especially the former that protects investors rather than helps debtor countries," Mundell was quoted as saying in an interview with Milan's Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Mundell, who won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1999, said the G8—the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and Russia—should set up a research center to study the world's problems and how to solve them.

He added that the mandates of the IMF and the World Bank were insufficient to deal with the world's current problems.

"We've got to be realistic. The onus of making progress is on the richest nations with America, Europe and Japan at the head. It's up to them to guide globalization with clear and visionary leadership," he said.

The G8 are due to meet in Genoa from July 20 to 22.

Mundell said he hoped the summit would work to increase transparency in global capital movements and to coordinate exchange rates in order to pep up the world economy.

In answer to the thousands of anti-globalization protesters whose often violent marches now almost routinely accompany big international monetary meetings, Mundell said only some of the world's problems could be blamed on globalization.

"More often they are problems caused by imbalances and local tensions or by political shortcomings," he said.

"Globalization is irreversible because national economies are ever more interdependent. The problem is that it caught many countries and international institutions unprepared." *Reuters*

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People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.p

Globe offers more interactive landline text service

GLOBE Telecom made a huge impact on the Philippine text messaging scene when it pioneered the Philippines' first-ever text messaging service through landline telephone.

Previously, text messaging was a service available only through cellular phones, but Globe Telecom changed all that with the launching of its Globelines telephone service of the "Globelines 1-900-TXT".

"Bringing text service to landline users, Globeline 1-900-TXT is a first in the Philippines. Our introduction of text service via landline is in keeping with Globe Telecom's thrust to constantly offer our customers the latest innovations and groundbreaking industry advancements," said Venancio Chan, Globe telecom assistant vice president for fixed network marketing.

Chan adds that Globe Telecom's landline text messaging enjoys significant advantages. Globelines subscribers can send and even receive text messages from all Globe cell phone users, and enable subscribers to access exciting information services. No activation is required.

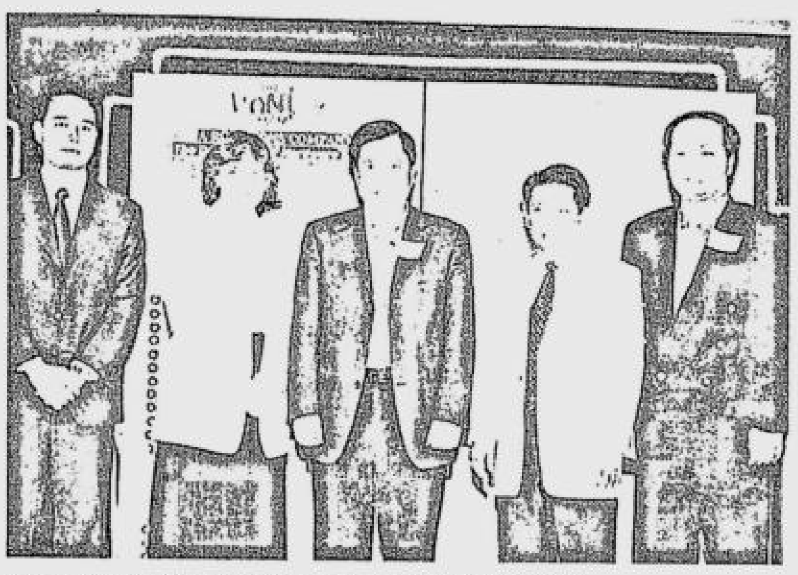
"Unlike other landline text services in the country today, Globeline subscribers do not have to apply or register separately for their text service. All our Globelines subscribers that are NDD-activated are automatically capable of sending and receiving text messages with Globelines 1-900-TXT," Chan said.

Text messaging via landline can be done with subscribers using the telephone's number keys to compose and send text. To transmit text messages, Globelines subscribers have to dial the access number 1-900-898 (or 1-900-TXT) on their telephones and follow the simple voice instructions that they will hear.

Using the number keys, Globelines subscribers can choose to send ready-made messages or compose their own messages. To compensate for the absence of a visual display when composing text messages, the Globelines 1-900-TXT service announces each letter or instruction as encountered by subscribers while keying in their messages.

ADASIA DELEGATES VISIT RP

Five officials from the steering committee of AdAsia 2001 Taipei visited the Philippines and encouraged the advertising industry practitioners to attend the Asian Advertising Congress. The delegation consisted of chair Longmen Hu, deputy executive directors Clark Huang, Raymond So, Johnny Tuan, and secretary-general Jonathon Chen. The AdAsia delegates gave a short briefing on the congress' program and speakers, as well as the culture and city attractions of Taipei at the general membership meeting of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As) at Acceed Center, Makati City. Shown are the delegates from AdAsia 2001 Taipei during the welcome dinner by the AdBoard directors at Kamayan Restaurant, Makati City. Seated (from left) are Angge Suiza, Jonathon Chen, Johnny Tuan, Susan Dimacali (AdBoard chair), Longmen Hu, Raymond So and Clark Huang. Standing (from left) are Joe Sy, Boy Pangilinan, Jun Alcantara, Alvin Manacsa, Oski Valenzuela, Egay Navalta, Afif Khodr and Mackoy Villaroman.



10 HANDYMAN STORES INAUGURATED

Handyman, the do-it-yourself hardware store chain of Robinsons, formally inaugurated its 10 new outlets for 2000. The grand inaugural held at the Manansala Hall of Manila Galleria Suites was highlighted by a symbolic lighting ceremony. Little houses representing Handyman outlets were mounted on a panel and lit simultaneously with the corresponding branch locations. The ceremony was led by Willy T. Co, president of Robinsons Handyman, Inc. (RHI); Mary Harper, general manager of SC Johnson and Son Inc.; James L. Go, president of JG Summit Holdings; Ronnie T. Ong, RHI general manager; and Benjamin Co, RHI vice president. Handyman now has 30 outlets nationwide.

Westminster on career talk outreach

THE PATH to prosperity is paved with the right career choice. This is the gist of the career outreach program Westminster Colleges of the Philippines (WCP) conducted among selcted commercial and industrial firms in Antipolo City.

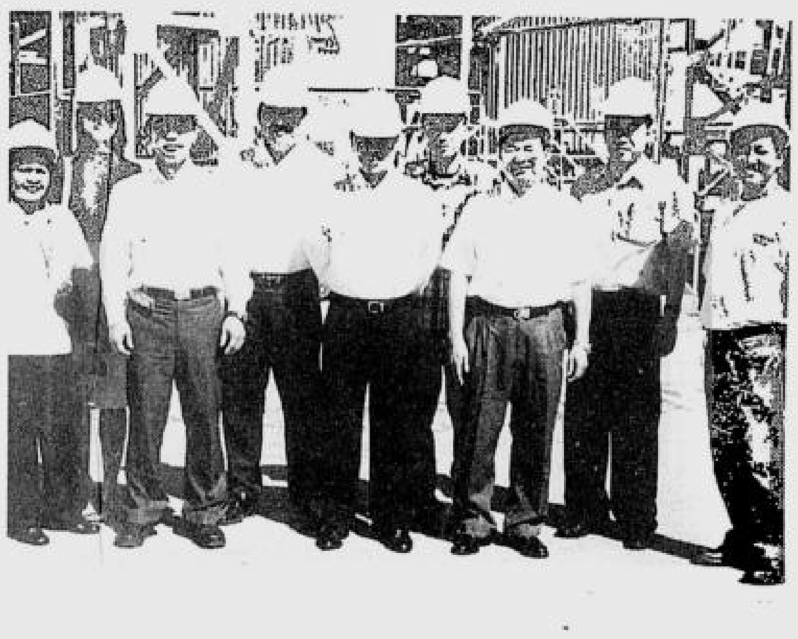
"In view of the ever-increasing cost of education, we have taken the initiative to be one with the school's immediate community to share our insights in career choices," Arlyn Grace Guico, WCP president, said.

The career talks were conducted during lunch breaks of the Antipolo City-based companies. The novel idea was welcomed by the employees who sat down with school officials to validate their views about career paths for themselves and their dependents.

Among the companies who participated in the WCP-sponsored outreach activity were Jollibee, McDonald's, Marfis Garments Corp., and Snow Down Garments. A total of 600 employees benefited from the talks led by Jay Comendador, WCP faculty member and administrative officer.

"Westminster Colleges of the Philippines will continue to serve the community in various ways. The career talks outreach is just one way of guiding parents to optimize precious resources for their children's education," stressed Guico.

WCP offers Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in management marketing, banking and finance, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Bachelor in Elementary Education, and Bachelor in Secondary Education major in English, mathematics and health and science. The campus is located at 150 M.L. Quezon Avenue, Antipolo City.



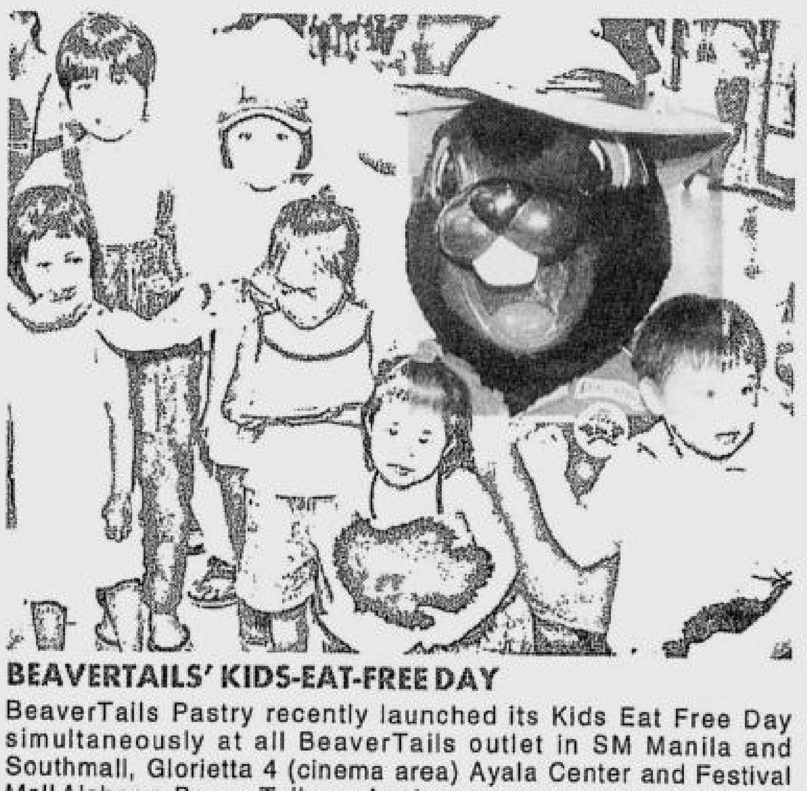
BASF ASEAN EXECS VISIT LOCAL BASF

BASF marketing executives from the Asean region recently visited the Philippines to observe the various marketing initiatives implemented by BASF Coatings Inc. (BCP). The visitors noted that one of these initiatives--product launches targeting independent bodyshops--could be applied to their markets. The executives were in the country to witness the R-M 2K Polyurethane performance demonstration where bodyshops owners and painters were updated on the latest technology in automotive paints. Leading the tour of BASF's dispersions plant in Canlubang, Laguna was BCP business development manager Ludi Pastor, followed by Jian Jinshi (BASF International Chemtrada, Train Hsu (BASF Taiwan Ltd.), John Loi (BASF Malaysia), Robin Tay (BASF Malaysia), Moon Jae Yong (Sanhwa Korea), Walter Lim (Formosa Paint Co. Ltd.) and BASF Philippines plant manager Cesar Domingo.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT
STATE CONVENTION

LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT VICE GOV PROCLAIMED

Past district governor Mariano Chan (right), chair of the Lions State Council of Governors, and District 301-A1 (Manila) governor Frank Ching Solay (left) proclaim Robert Roque Jr. as vice governor-elect of Lions Clubs International District 301-A1 at the close of the 52nd Multiple District 301 Lions State Convention held recently at the Baguio Country Club.



BEAVERTAILS' KIDS-EAT-FREE DAY

BeaverTails Pastry recently launched its Kids Eat Free Day simultaneously at all BeaverTails outlet in SM Manila and Southmall, Glorietta 4 (cinema area) Ayala Center and Festival Mall Alabang. BeaverTails are fresh, warm pastry treats made from a blend of whole wheat and other natural ingredients. Tails are served with top quality, scrumptious, sweet and savory toppings. As seen above, BeaverTails mascot served the kids their favorite Tails Chocolate Hazel Nut.

BITS & Clips

Miriam alumni homecoming

THE SOCIAL Work Department of Miriam College will have an Alumni Homecoming at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 14 at the Marian Auditorium of Miriam College. For inquiries, call Salvacion Rodriguez, chair of the Social Work Department, at 435-9232 or 435-9240 local 248. The Social Work graduates of the institution will join the alumni of all the other courses of the college department in an event titled "Kita Kits, Kapit-Kapit sa 75th," a kick-off celebration of the educational institution's diamond jubilee.

Pick Cotton USA finalists and win

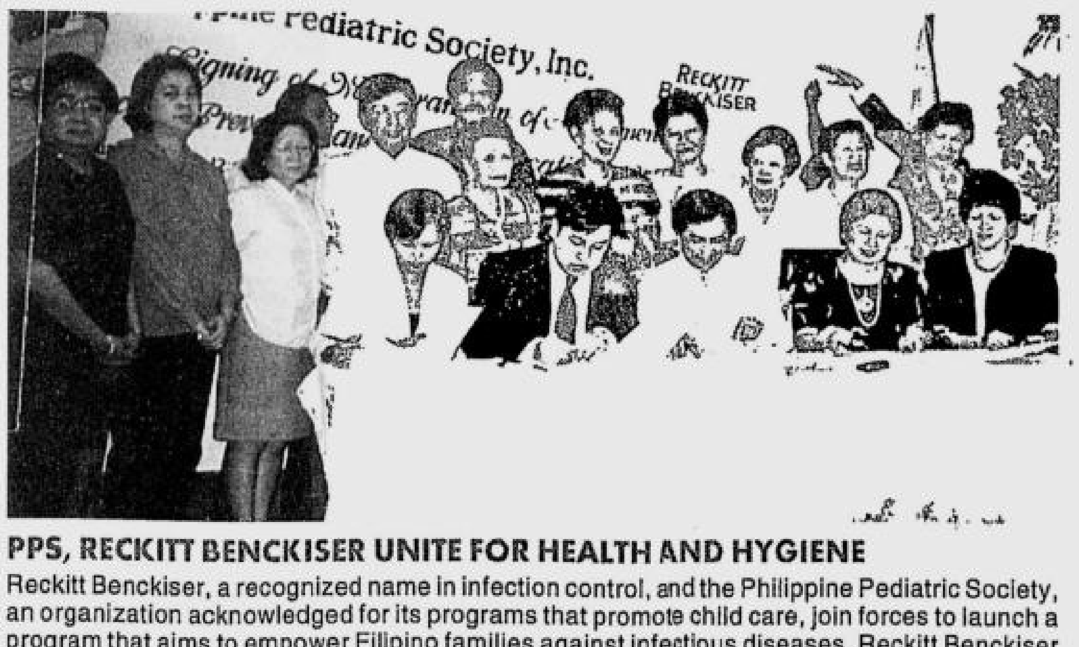
IN the ongoing "Quest for the Cotton USA Moving Spirits" promotion, every P100 purchase of Cotton USA labeled clothes or Breeze products entitles the consumer to a ballot-cum-raffle ticket. Ballots can be redeemed from the store where they purchased the item/s, while Breeze product consumers can redeem their ballots from any participating Cotton USA clothing and outlets. By encircling their top three choices each for "Moving Spirits Tykes" and "Moving Spirits Teens" from a pool of 12 talented "Moving Spirits" finalists listed on the ballots, they can win in the raffle draw scheduled on July 26. Win a Sony Home Entertainment System, or go on a 4-day, 3-night vacation for two to Bangkok with a US$500 pocket money. Submit entries at drop boxes located at participating Cotton USA clothing licensee brands. Deadline for submission of raffle entries will be at the end of store hours on July 15.

Seminar on face-to-face selling set

SELLING – what is perhaps the most important skill in today's business world, will be the focus of the "Face-to-Face Selling Skills" seminar of Mansmith and Fie[illegible] Inc. (7236671, 4164662 or 7222318) July [illegible] 14 at the Mandarin Hotel. The seminar [illegible] a skill-building lecture-workshop for entrepreneurs, salespeople dealing directly with end-consumers, and senior salesmen with no formal training. Key topics to be covered are behaviors and market forces that influence consum[illegible] buying habits; finding out consumer needs and problems; presentation and communication skills; handling objections and complaints [illegible] effective techniques in closing a sale.

CONEXYS, EPLDT AGREEMENT

Conexys Corp., a Canada-based international provider of advanced communication services, has sealed a partnership agreement with ePLDT, the principal vehicle for PLDT's Internet, e-commerce and multimedia businesses. Through this tie-up, ePLDT will be able to market Conexys' unified messaging service "iComMand," which will allow users to access their e-mail, voice mail, and fax via the Internet, or through a landline or mobile phone, a PC or a wireless PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) conveniently anywhere in the world. Photo shows (from left) Ariel A. Roda, co-managing director ePLDT; Ray C. Espinosa, co-managing director of ePLDT; Therone S. Yupangco, Conexys Asia Pacific managing director; Joselito B. Hermoso, country manager of Conexys Philippines.



PPS, RECKITT BENCKISER UNITE FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Reckitt Benckiser, a recognized name in infection control, and the Philippine Pediatric Society, an organization acknowledged for its programs that promote child care, join forces to launch a program that aims to empower Filipino families against infectious diseases. Reckitt Benckiser and the PPS launched an extensive educational drive on infection-control and its essential role in the elimination of diseases. A primary component of this campaign educates Filipino families on the different kinds of germs and the illnesses they cause. It will then inform these families on how they can protect their health and well being through proper hygiene practices. Shown signing the MOA were Angel Motomal, assistant brand manager, Ernest Estrada, brand manager of Reckitt Benckiser, and Carmelo Alfiler of PPS.

Creba shares Pag-Ibig's twin passions

BY CHARLIE V. GORAYEB
National President
Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations

WE certainly share Pag-Ibig Fund's twin visions or "passions" of making home acquisition affordable to its members and making housing finance sustainable, as articulated by the Fund's president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo in his speech before Creba's 6th monthly business meeting.

And, undoubtedly, we likewise share Mr. Crisostomo's confidence that "continuing dialogue and cooperation" between Pag-Ibig Fund and Creba, "along with the whole-hearted support of President Macapagal and Secretary Defensor, can only result in the fulfillment of our shared vision."

Long before the advent of the Macapagal administration, it will be recalled, Creba had come up with a comprehensive package of housing reforms that aims to make home acquisition affordable not only to Pag-Ibig members, but also to the rest of the millions of homeless Filipino families. We have discussed with government authorities the main features of the Creba home financing scheme that envisions a large pool of funds with the least call on government budgetary outlays for a sustained and systematic response to the growing homelessness in this country.

Creba's proposal seeks to provide an aggressive, effective response to the housing needs of both members and nonmembers of the Pag-Ibig Fund, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System. The plan calls for the institution of both primary and secondary home mortgage financing for the primary production of some 500,000 housing units yearly, especially for the low-income and underprivileged homeless families.

The chamber has called and continues to call on the government to adopt this integrated approach to housing finance and mount a systematic housing program amid an increasing backlog of housing units, now estimated to be 4.5 million units.

During a recent meeting between President Macapagal and business leaders, Creba had occasion to reiterate its continuing call for "a total, systematic and long-term approach to the crisis of homelessness."

Only last month, Creba signed an agreement with National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan for Creba members to undertake joint-venture socialized housing projects with the NHA for low-income families. Pamintuan viewed the NHA-Creba agreement as part of the President's "healing mission" under the government's program for the poor and the underprivileged sector. The NHA will provide equity participation of up to 40 percent of the joint-venture housing projects.

In his speech, Crisostomo enumerated Pag-Ibig's moves to provide financing to a number of housing projects under various programs and schemes, seeking the production of thousands of units in the next few years. For their part, the SSS and the GSIS will undertake their own separate housing programs. In other words, each institution will do its own part in the provision of housing for our people.

Why not place the government's housing effort—now scattered or diffused among a number of agencies running in different directions with their own disparate charters—under a unified command to save time, consolidate all available resources, capabilities and facilities, and thus, ensure a much higher level of flexibility and efficiency in the planning and management of the housing program?

In the past 11th Congress, we supported the passage of a bill creating a Department of Housing and Urban Development and recommended a number of revisions to further ensure a unified approach to the housing problem. Secretary Defensor was a co-sponsor of the measure during his term as congressman. On top of the amendments to the DHUD bill, Creba had repeatedly urged the government to consider its proposal for a comprehensive home financing scheme as a most vital component to the housing program.

We need not overemphasize the importance of responding to the societal needs of the huge homeless sector, and availing of the multiplier effects of housing development on other industries and sectors, especially the manufacturers of basic building materials, the construction sector and the large technical and professional services group, not to mention its impact on the creation of job opportunities. We have to recognize housing, as economists do, as an effective pump-primer of the national economy.

Yes, Creba has all along shared Pag-Ibig Fund's twin visions of affordable home acquisition and sustainable housing finance. In fact, these comprise the mainstay, the nitty-gritty of Creba's continuing advocacy. Pag-Ibig Fund's twin visions may be properly called Creba's twin passions.

FRIDAY'S
FRIDAY'S

SOON TO OPEN AT THE BRICKROAD, STA. LUCIA EAST
The construction of T.G.I. Friday's latest branch at The Brickroad of Sta. Lucia East is in full swing in time for its opening this month. Visiting the site is the management team of the new restaurant led by (from left) T.G.I Friday's director for operations Robert Santos, marketing manager Therese Reyes, marketing officer Ning Riego, Alex Dacasin, Lance Eugenio, Al Cordova, corporate chef Marinella Marcelo and Raffy Santos. This will be the restaurant's sixth branch in the country.

Valencia back as RGV Group chief executive

AFTER COMPLETING 14 years in politics, former Oriental Mindoro representative and governor, Rodolfo G. Valencia now assumes the post of chief executive officer and chair of the RGV Group.

As new CEO, Valencia vows to participate again in the local and international property market and support the housing development program of the national government.

RGV Group is composed of about 30 corporations engaged in the acquisition, development and marketing of real estate properties such as condominiums, resorts, industrial estates, commercial centers and memorial parks.

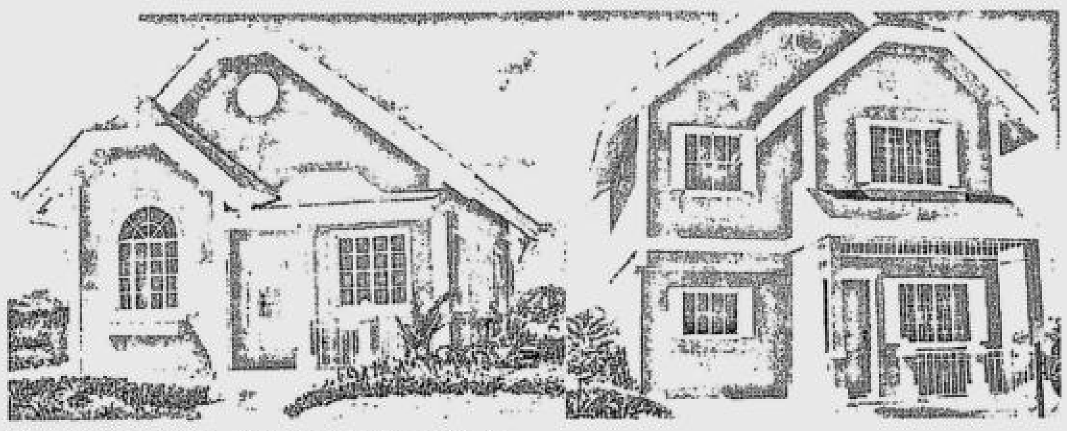
Its subsidiary, RGV Real Estate Center is the synthesis of expertise, experience and track record accumulated for about 25 years of active operations in real estate and land development.

It is considered as the only one-stop-shop real estate center serving its clients through general consultancy, marketing and brokerage, finance sourcing and management, architecture and engineering, research, planning and studies, legal research, tax consultancy and documentation, surveying and appraisal and advertising and promotions.

Valencia intends to extend full support to President Macapagal's program on housing, particularly in the development of multistory, high-rise residential buildings for low-income families in Metro Manila

Valencia was past president of Philippine Association of Realtors Boards (Pareb), Manila Realtors Board, and Philippine Council for Planning and Housing, and one of the few awardees elevated to the Pareb Hall of Fame

A 1983 awardee of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines, Valencia oversees the entire Region 4 tourism development efforts as chair of the Southern Tagalog Tourism Council.



NEW LAGUNA BELAIR III HOMES
Audrey, left, and Daphne are two of the American-style model homes of Laguna BelAir III, the newest expansion phase of the popular township of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. Audrey is a two-bedroom bungalow with a 51-square-meter floor area. Daphne, on the other hand, is a twin-level home with four bedrooms and a floor area of 105 sq. m. Among the new, improved features of the Laguna BelAir III showcase homes are higher ceilings, a porch, a maid's room, an extra toilet and bath, an enhanced kitchen layout and a provision for a carport.

Builders prefer Delta Synergy

BARELY a year since it was launched, clamor for the Delta Faucet Synergy line has been overwhelming with distributors expressing high regard for the contemporary faucet line.

Belvedere Enterprises Inc., a leading distributor of high-end bathroom and kitchen furnishings, said Delta Synergy is now being preferred by contractors, engineers and architects because European-style fixtures are the trend among construction professionals now.

Belvedere Enterprises president Ramon Ronquillo said the Delta Synergy line has a more streamlined look which allows users to experiment on the interiors of kitchen and bathrooms.

Homeowners also enjoy Delta Synergy's other features such as ceramic or stainless steel ball valve, which does not wear out like the conventional rubber gasket to prevent leaks and drips; the convenience of a single faucet handle that dispenses hot or cold water at a mere turn; and its five-year warranty on function and finish.

"When a customer makes a mistake of buying inferior quality fixtures because they are cheap, they end up spending more money in the long run for its maintenance or replacements since faucets and showerheads are permanent fixtures in the house," Ronquillo said.

This, he said, was the reason he strongly adheres to an iron-clad policy of selling only high-end bathroom and kitchen furnishings like imported ceramic tiles from Europe, showerheads, kitchen sinks and faucets which should comply with Belvedere's standards of durability, affordability and stylishness. And the Delta Synergy line is one brand that measures up to the expectations.

"With inferior fixtures, not only do the customers lose money, they also lose their trust in the store, so we believe that providing top-of-the-line fixtures like Delta Synergy plays a vital part in our business," he stressed.

E. Ganzon builds with passion

E. GANZON Inc., triple "A" contractor of 18 years, revealed its philosophy of construction in a recent interview conducted with company president Eulalio Ganzon.

Known for its design and building capabilities, Ganzon said that when his company constructs a building, "it builds for the future." He distinguished between gadgetry and "intelligence." Real intelligent buildings, Ganzon said, "are adaptable to changes over time." Without major modifications, an intelligent building should be able to keep up with changes in technology so that within its lifetime (50 years more or less), it would be compatible and ready to host these changes within its structure.

Explaining this point further, Ganzon said that the cost of the building amortized over its expected life only constitutes about 3 percent of the total expenses to operate and maintain the building as a rule of thumb. This is the reason his company maintains a philosophy of building for the future to enable buyers of units designed by Gold Architects and Engineers (a Ganzon subsidiary) and constructed by E. Ganzon Inc. to save on maintenance, repair and operating expenses.

As examples, Ganzon cited the Taft Tower (inside De La Salle University-Taft campus) now under construction and the Skycity, at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Edsa. These buildings have been designed with the versatility of advanced techniques in engineering and with the purpose of enabling tenants and owners to save on their water, electric and other utility bills. Structurally, the Taft Tower will use the panel wall system from the 10th floor up and the steel framing system will be used in the Skycity, abandoning the traditional beams-columns-slabs building system. The end result for these innovations will achieve lightness for the structure, speed in construction, safety and economy for the end users.

As though to punctuate EGI's building "with passion," the company has embarked on many innovations to benefit its end users. Among the many innovations recently submitted to the Intellectual Property Rights Office is a "System and Method for Reinforced Concrete Construction and the Reinforced Concrete Structures Produced thereby." This method of construction demonstrated efficiency in time, cost and quality of product and was recently used in three completed projects—Filipiniana Calapan Hotel in Oriental Mindoro, Eagleridge Microtel Hotel in Gen. Trias, Cavite and University Suites in Sampaloc, Manila.

Also just recently, a new invention was submitted for patent: "A System and Method for Balancing Multiphase Electrical Loads and Power Source Distribution." This personal, direct involvement of EGI in the things it does best so that it puts innovations in the service of its technology and passion to build will translate into bigger savings in electric bills, greater fire safety and durability of the power system.

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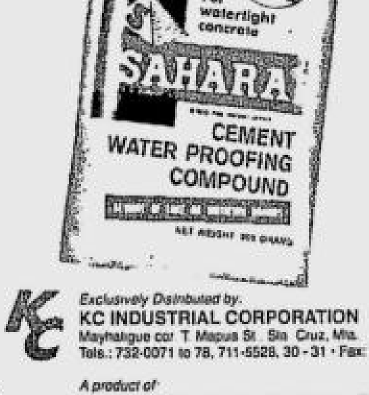

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Rescop and the real estate industry

BY FLORENTINO S. DULALIA JR.

MOST of us may have, in one way or another, dealings with the real estate industry—house and lot purchase, business related dealings or acquisitions, even office space/residential or apartment rentals. What makes it a universal activity is that shelter for home or a place for business or other related activities is one of a person's basic needs. It may even be deemed more important to satisfy than love. It is, thus, no surprise that anywhere in the world, the real estate industry thrives to satisfy this particular need.

The beginning and growth of the industry, though, followed a trail of such disorder and irregularity, even in this country. The government then encouraged the establishment of real estate associations as an aid to regulating and monitoring its practitioners. Later, a realty council was established to help the government lay down the rules and processes for real estate transactions for the growth of the trade and for public protection.

Under Department Order 97, Series of 1992, the trade and industry department created the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop). The department order was later amended (DO 122, 1993) to enhance the functions of the council and to authorize it to admit new members. The Rescop is composed of the Institute of the Philippine Real Estate Consultants Inc. (Iprec), Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers Inc. (Iprea), Philippine Association of Realtors Boards Inc. (Pareb), Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (Rebap), NAR Philippines Inc., Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators Inc. (Philcore), Philippine Association of Realty Appraisers Inc. (Para), Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association Inc. (Creba), National Real Estate Association, Philippine Association of Realty Consultants Inc. and the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumers Protection as chair.

In general, Rescop aims at professionalizing the realty service in the country and assist the government in formulating government policies and programs that affect the real estate business. Moreover, it aims at fostering a better coordination and closer relationship between landowners/developers and realty service practitioners to eliminate possible sources of conflicts that may arise out of any transaction. The objective is to safeguard the buying public's peaceful possession and ownership of the real property bought.

Among Rescop's functions are (1) to provide advice and/or recommendation to the DTI on all matters relating/affecting the real estate industry; (2) to initiate studies, policies, programs, projects and activities that will further develop and promote the realty service business; (3) to perform other real estate related activities complementing or supplementing those being undertaken by the government agencies; and (4) admit new council members who can contribute to the attainment of its objectives.

The Rescop is at present chaired by lawyer Maria Teresa Arao-Mahiwo with Domingo D. de Vera and Fernando M. Miranda as vice chair. The officers are Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., president; lawyer Ruben B. Palacio Jr., executive vice president; Adriana M. Macavinta, VP for consultants; Rodolfo D. Leonen, VP for appraisers; Angelino B. dela Cruz, VP for brokers; Amelita E. Sarmiento, VP for information and technology; and Rafael F. Pula, VP for housing and development; Dr. Eduardo G. Ong, board secretary; Carolina Q. Alvarez, treasurer; Elizabeth P. Villareal, auditor; Celia A. Umali, PRO.

Among the thrusts of the new set of officers are to strengthen the council, to give it a more active role in policy review and recommendation, consistent and diligent advocacy and promotion. Other special programs include the revival of the Rescop multi-purpose cooperative and the establishment of the Rescop Center (business one-stop shop) and Hotline, Rescop Foundation, business opportunities for Rescop members, dialogues and mass oathtaking of new real estate brokers, appraisers and consultants.

The Rescop, in view of its huge responsibilities, is preparing itself to take on the challenge of the new millennium. It hopes to eventually professionalize and maintain the standards and ethics of the the real estate service.

The Rescop office/secretariat is located at the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumers Protection, second floor, Trade and Industry Buildings, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. It can be contacted through Tel. Nos. 896-5788 and 929-2731.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Piped-in LPG for Global City

THE BONIFACIO Gas Corp. has officially been commissioned to be the exclusive supplier of piped-in LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to power the cooking and air-conditioning requirements of residential and business buildings and commercial establishment within the Bonifacio Global City through an underground pipeline network that meets world-class standards. The BGC Tank Farm is the main generating facility of said gas utility.

P500M for cooperative housing

MARGARITO Teves, president of Land Bank of the Philippines, has called on the members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association to assist cooperatives and local government units in their availment of some P500-million fund that was recently set up by the LBP for the housing needs of rural folks under its cooperative housing program. Other convention guests were Ma. Teresita Liwanag of the LBP, SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez and Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo A. Bongolan.

Waagner Biro holds training for engineers

WAAGNER Biro Philippines Inc. recently concluded a four-week training program on superstructure installation for two batches of engineers from the Department of Interior and Local Government and local government units in the north.

Held in DILG-WBPI's La Union depot—where it serves as stockyard for bridge materials to be built in Regions 1, 2, 3 and the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR)—this training forms the initial leg of the full-blast installation of modular steel bridges all over the country under the Austrian-assisted Phase 2 of the President's Bridge Program.

"A hands-on demonstration on superstructure installation formed the main agenda of the training," said Herbert Maier, WBPI vice president for operations.

He added that the firm encouraged the engineers to learn more about the assembly of a 15 linear meter anchor span, linking set, lifting beam and the assembly and dismantling of a five linear meter cantilever—all vital elements in constructing strong modular bridges.

WBPI vice president for administration and finance Ligaya Borcena participated in the training with DILG-PMO Gerald John Pacquing, Achilles Orteza, Jun dela Cruz, the WBPI training team and the LGU engineers.

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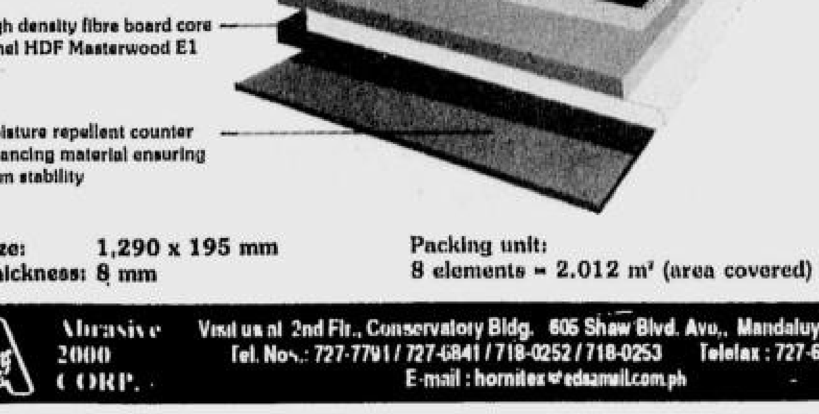
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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Mini hydropower plant construction to cost $12M

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE DAPITAN River in Zamboanga del Norte will soon be the site of the construction of a 12-megawatt run-of-the-river-type mini hydropower plant.

The hydropower project will be developed, owned and operated by Smith Bell Resco (Renewable Energy Services Corp.). It will also hire local contractors and experts in hydropower.

The Dapitan River is broken down into three sites: Lower Dapitan river (Barangay El Paraiso, municipality of La Libertad); Middle Dapitan river (Barangay new Siquijor, municipality of Mutia), and the Upper Dapitan river (Barangay G. Bergamo in Mutia).

Zamboanga del Norte Electrical Cooperative Inc. (Zaneco) shall purchase from SB Resco the power to be generated. Smith Bell Resco, in a press statement, said it was doing feasibility studies before going into the project proper.

If things go as planned, the power plant is expected to begin operations second half of 2003.

Smith Bell Resco said that the hydropower project supports the provincial government's thrust of harnessing environment-friendly renewable energy sources to increase power supply availability for household, commercial and industrial applications. During recent years, the demand for power had been increasing at an average annual rate of 21 percent.

Smith Bell Resco also said that the hydropower plant would provide the entire power requirements of the soon-to-be constructed Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Agro-Industrial Center (ZN-Paic).

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Smith Bell Resco vice president and COO Ruth Owen said the Dapitan River has been identified as a potential source of power by the Department of Energy. The DOE conducted a prefeasibility study in the area and had sought private sector participants in Dipolog City a year ago. Smith Bell Resco expressed its interest.

Established in 1846, Smith Bell drilled the first oil well in Cebu in 1896 and afterward had diversified. It now has eight companies engaged in shipping, hull and machinery surveys, petroleum and petrochemical surveys, heavy equipment supplies and energy development projects such as hydro, wind and solar.

"In hydropower costs, one megawatt (requires) $1million (to build) so a 12-Mw plant would cost $12 to 14 million," Owen said.

Crown Asia maximizes IT potentials

WITH AN INTERACTIVE webpage and a full-time department handling its information technology (IT) requirements, Crown Asia has positioned itself as a real property developer that has embraced IT to improve its capabilities as well as those of its sales networks.

Readying its sales networks to take full advantage of technology, Crown Asia has been giving away Internet-ready desktop and laptop computers and Palm Pilots as incentives for its brokers and agents.

"By giving our networks the capability to access our website and database of lot inventories, we are giving them an added advantage to be able to make a sale," said Marcelino C. Mendoza, Crown Asia chief executive officer.

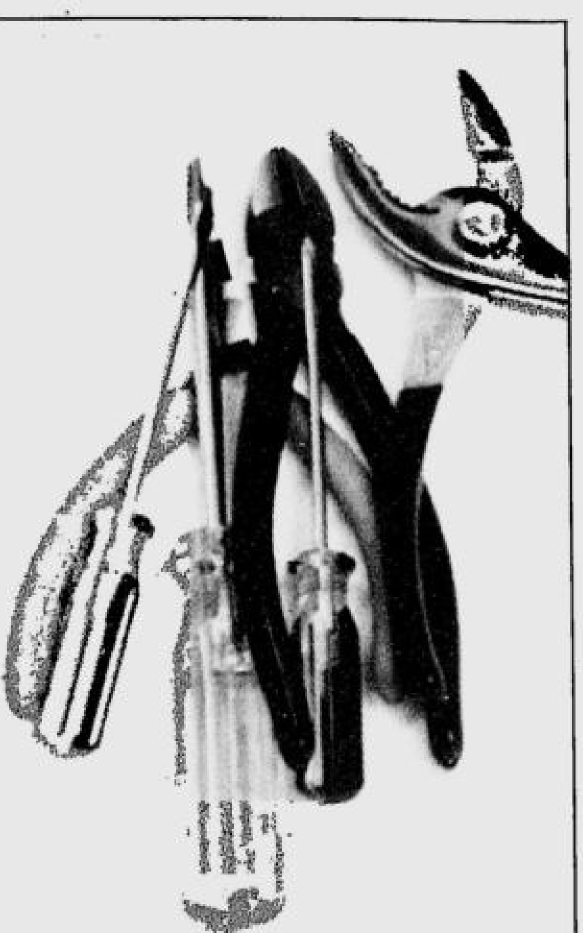
"After all, the more information that they can provide to their clients, the easier it is for them to decide on which of Crown Asia's various house-and-lot combinations," Mendoza said.

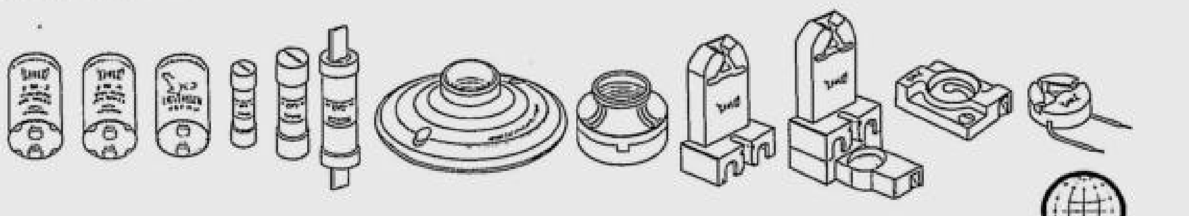
Brokers and agents can now just ask for information on lots and houses through e-mail.

"Our list of lot inventories and the different house models is updated every day and this means our sales networks can immediately know if what their client wants is available," Mendoza said.

Aside from the website and database, Crown Asia has also implemented last year the full computerization of all its departments in its main office. By linking the offices handling frontline services such as marketing, financing and customer service, Crown Asia has been able to optimize its operations such as processing of papers and maintenance schedules for the different subdivisions.

Crown Asia properties are Maia Alta, The Orchard, Cottonwood Heights and Cascades in Antipolo City, La Brea in Quezon City, and Nova Romania, Villa Alegria and Residenza in Novaliches. Point your browsers to the Crown Asia webpage at http://www.crownasia.com.ph for more information.





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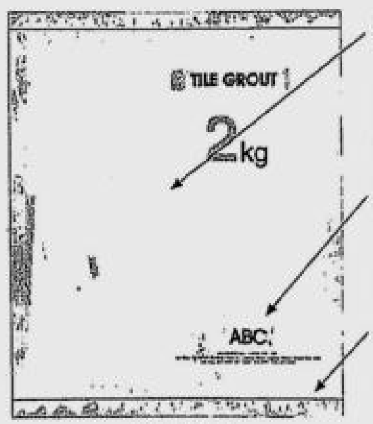
WARNING: BEWARE OF IMITATIONS!

WARNING!

The public is hereby warned of the illegal manufacture, proliferation and distribution of fake ABC Tile Grout products in the market under the registered name "ABC TILE GROUT". The genuine ABC Tile Grout solely manufactured and distributed by ALLGEMEINE-BAU-CHEMIE PHIL., INC. (ABC) is a complex combination of various high-grade aggregates, cementitious materials and chemicals. The fake products contain only white cement.

To distinguish the genuine ABC Tile Grout products from the fake ones, take note of the following features:

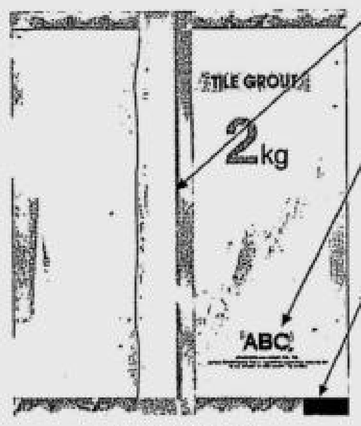


NO VERTICAL SEAL
The fake ABC Tile Grout products are packed in regular plastic bags that do not have the distinguishing heat seal on the back panel.

WRONG LOGO
The logo on the fake tile grout is distorted, with the letter "B" noticeably narrower than the other two letters.

NO SENSOR GUIDE
Bags of the fake products do not have a sensor mark on the bottom seal.

FAKE



VERTICAL SEAL
Genuine ABC Tile Grout products are packed in quality vinyl bags with a heat seal running vertically down the back panel.

LOGO
The original ABC trademark consists of proportionally sized letters set on a rectangular red field.

SENSOR GUIDE
Bags of the genuine ABC Tile Grout products bear a black rectangular mark on the lower right corner of the back panel below the bottom seal.

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The manufacture, sale or distribution of fake ABC Tile Grout products has resulted in extreme prejudice and damage to ABC and constitutes unfair competition and infringement of ABC trademark and proprietary rights. Any person found manufacturing, selling, distributing, possessing or otherwise dealing with the fake products shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Please report any information on the source of the illegal products and identities of the manufacturers and distributors of the fake ABC Tile Grout to ABC's undersigned counsel.

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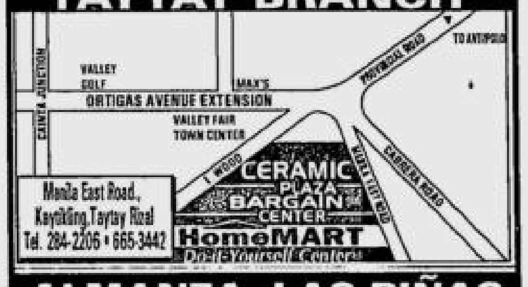
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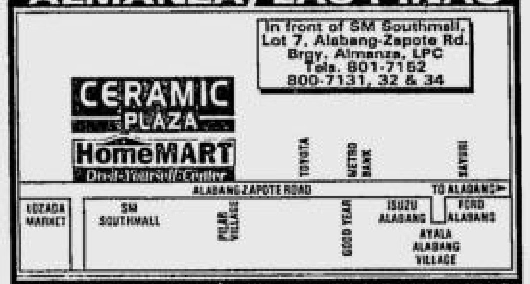

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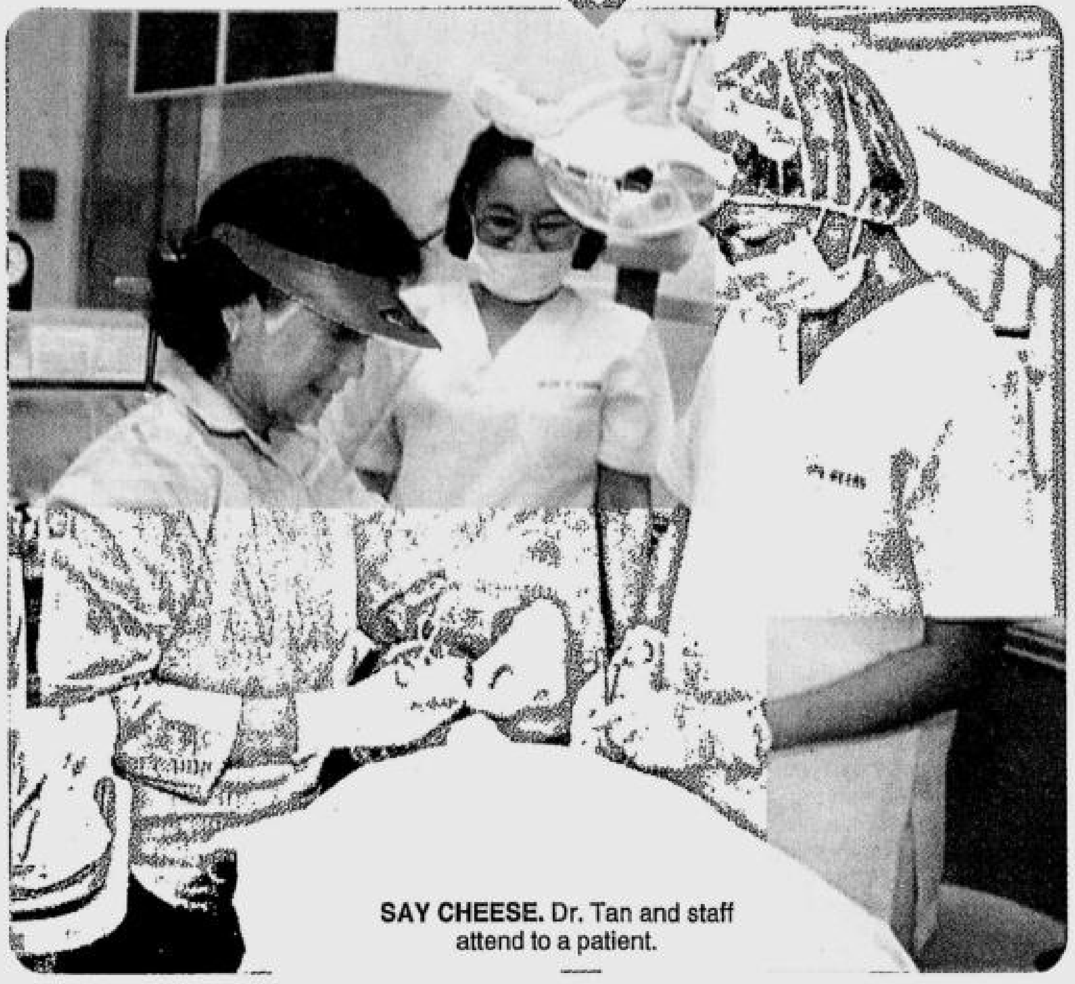


SAY CHEESE. Dr. Tan and staff attend to a patient.

If you're shopping for clothes, shoes and books, you might as well shop for braces—they're all there, in that wonderful invention called the mall

Look, Ma, an ortho in the mall!

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

NOT all children are blessed with pearly white teeth and a killer smile. For some kids, monthly visits to the orthodontist are an integral part of growing up. Up until a few years ago, a visit to the ortho with your child meant sitting in the dentist's waiting room, twiddling thumbs or leafing through the pages of a dog-earred magazine or book.

Things have gotten better. The concept of ambulatory health care has come to many of Metro Manila's malls so, while your child is having his or her braces adjusted, you can do the groceries, buy a book or window shop, all at one stop.

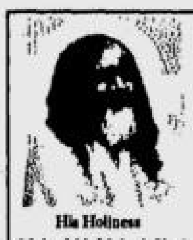
Among the pioneers in ambulatory health care situated in shopping malls in the Philippines is Clinica Manila, which opened its doors in SM Megamall in the mid-1990s. Nearby Robinsons Galleria also has several dental and medical clinics in what can be called a health zone, located on the third floor of the shopping mall. Majority of the practitioners specialize in dermatology, general dentistry or orthodontics. The set-up is such that doctors and dentists have individual clinics, quite different from the usual one-stop medical centers like Clinica Manila and, more recently, Healthway Medical Clinics.

The Heathway Medical Clinic in Festival Mall Alabang is one of the few health care establishments that can boast of a full range of services, including a large, comfortable clinic dedicated to general dentistry and orthodontics. Healthway, a subsidiary of Vista Healthcare Asia based in Singapore, is now the largest ambulatory health-care provider in the country. Healthway has several branches in Metro Manila—at SM North Edsa in Quezon City, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt in Makati, in Binondo and in Binan, Laguna. Majority of the Healthway Medical Centers have a full complement of medical services. Some branches, like the ones in Alabang Town Center, SM North Edsa and Festival Mall are open even on Sundays. When the malls are open on holidays, some of the Healthway branches do likewise.

Within the Healthway clinic at Festival Mall are the offices of doctors Rody Tan, Ma. Jocelyn "Joji" Tan and Rona Singson Ledesma. Both Tan and Ledesma specialize in general dentistry while Joji Tan is the orthodontist.

Orthodontics is the branch of dentistry that specializes in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities. The

LOOK/ p.C4



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What is your body type?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

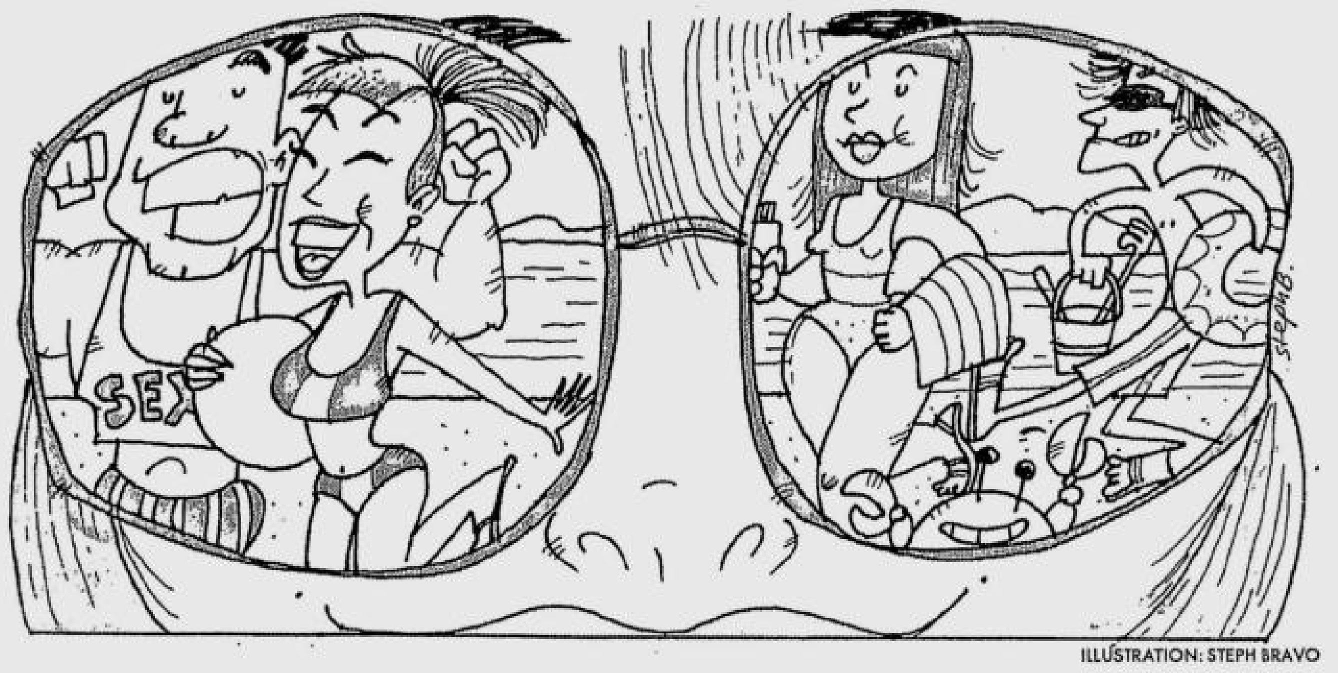


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

TWO months ago, as I was walking down the famous white-sand beach of Boracay, I played a little game to pass the time. From behind the anonymity of my sunglasses, I was categorizing every person I saw into three basic body types. The reason I was playing the body type game was because someone had recently asked me why he wasn't getting the same results as his friend who had started lifting weights at the same time. One of the answers I gave him was he did not have the same body type as his friend.

Body types

The concept that all bodies are a combination or variation of three basic body types is called somatotyping. The three body types are endomorph, mesomorph and ectomorph.

A male endomorph is heavy-set, stocky and naturally strong (picture an ox). This type of male body will easily put on muscle but will just as easily put on fat so it tends to be bulky rather than chiseled. A female endomorph is rounded, soft, voluptuous and also easily gains weight.

Male and female mesomorphs have athletic-looking bodies. They don't have to try too hard to look like they are in shape because they are naturally muscular and they tend to maintain their weight easily.

Ectomorphs are the long, lean and lanky type. They have a high metabolic rate and can usually eat whatever they want without gaining weight. They have very little fat but they also don't have much muscle. They are small-boned with slim arms and legs.

Variations

Most of us are variations of the three body types. Some people have an upper body that is ectomorphic and a lower body that is endomorphic. In other words, a slim upper body and a more fat-prone lower body. This is also called a pear shape. Other people are the opposite.

They are apple-shaped with endomorphic upper bodies and ectomorphic lower bodies. They are the ones who store fat easily in the upper body while their lower bodies remain slim.

Sometimes the variation is not as clear-cut as having one body type for the upper body and another for the lower. There are ecto-mesos who have all-around wiry bodies (slim but muscular) and there are also ecto-endo's who have slender but soft and rounded bodies.

Height has nothing to do with body type even though we tend to think of skinny people (ectomorphs) as being tall and heavy-set people (endomorphs) as being short. For instance, my sister and I are both the same height and size but she is a mesomorph while I am an ecto-endo.

Genetics and body type

We inherit our body types from our parents who, in turn, inherited theirs from their parents. That's why our bodies tend to be combinations of body types.

Since families customarily take their summer vacations together, I saw examples of this in the living flesh in Boracay. For example, I saw a family where the first son had an ectomorphic body (like the mother) and the second son had an endomorphic body (like the father). The daughter was clearly of the mesomorph persuasion so I figured she must look like one of the grandparents.

Body type aside, one of my other observations is that slim parents tend to have slim children while overweight parents more often than not have overweight children. The slim families are usually involved in doing something physical like playing volleyball, riding a bike or swimming while the overweight families were invariably eating something fattening (ice cream, soft drinks, potato chips) as they sat or lay on the sand. If they were walking, they were generally munching their food. While genetics plays a role in whether we will be overweight or not, one has to ask whether family exercise and eating habits is as big a factor, if not bigger.

Sports and body type

Athletes come in all shapes and sizes though certain body types tend to excel in specific sports. Ectomorphs do well in endurance sports like long-distance running. Mesomorphs shine in sports that require power and speed like sprinting. And endomorphs stand out in sports or team positions that require bulk. The next time you watch a basketball game, see if you can identify the three body types from among the team players.

Can you change your body type?

You cannot change your body type in the sense that an endomorph will always have a greater propensity to put on weight compared to a mesomorph or ectomorph. But you can change it in the sense that the endomorph is not doomed to being overweight as long as he or she takes extra effort to watch calorie and fat intake and exercise regularly, unlike the other two body types that have a greater caloric and exercise leeway.

The guy who asked me the question that inspired this column is an ectomorph while his friend is a mesomorph. It doesn't take a whole lot of analysis to figure out his friend will see faster results in terms of more muscle bulk and definition. The ectomorphic guy will have to be more patient, work twice as hard and be realistic about the results because he cannot compare himself to his mesomorphic friend.

All body types can gain or lose weight but the degree and rate at which they do varies. For example, all body types will become shadows of their former selves after spending a year at a World War II Holocaust-type concentration camp, but the ecto's will get to the skeletal state much more rapidly. The endos and mesos may survive longer because they have greater fat and muscle mass. Upon return to a normal environment, all body types will gain weight, but the endos will do so faster than the other two.

Body type vs body shape

Body type and body shape are different things. All three body types can come in four body shapes. Borrowing the definition of Edward Jackowski, author of "Escape Your Shape," the four shapes are the cone, spoon, ruler and hourglass. The cone has wider shoulders than hips and is commonly found in men. The spoon has narrower shoulders than hips and is usually found in women, though I personally know about three men with this shape. The ruler is straight up-and-down. Shoulders and hips are proportioned, but there is hardly an indentation for the waist. The hourglass is strictly a female shape. Shoulders and hips have the same measurement, but there is a dramatic indentation in the waistline.

The terms "apples and pears" are usually used to describe fat distribution patterns: Apples have fat-prone upper bodies while pears have fat-prone lower bodies. The four shapes mentioned above describe skeletal structure. You cannot change skeletal structure, but you can manipulate the muscles on top of your bones to look like you have changed your shape.

* * *

Attention all gym owners and managers: Life Fitness Academy is back! This two-day seminar will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. David Welsh, one of the industry's leading management presenters, will talk on "Creating a Winning Team, Success through Effective People Management." Call 826-0751/2781.

* * *

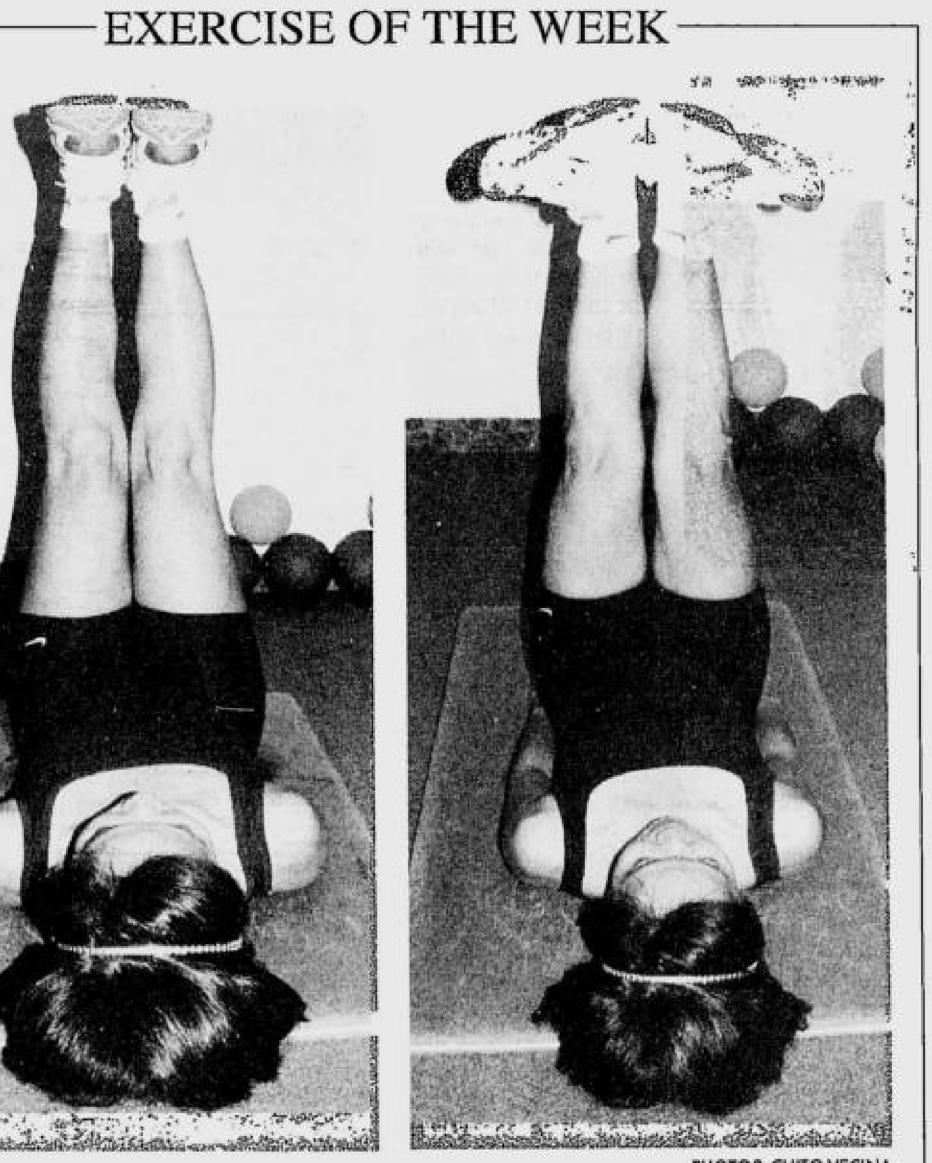
The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Red Cross CPR Certification on July 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus. CPR certification is a requirement for those taking the American Council on Exercise Examinations on Oct. 27. Call 842-0567.

Next week: Exercising for your body type and shape

Please write me at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail fitness@ibm.net

> Most of us are variations of body types that we inherited from our parents who, in turn, inherited theirs from their parents

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA

Lying hip rotation

THE NEW York City Ballet Workout inspired this exercise. It tones the muscles of the buttocks and inner thighs. It is called "hip rotation" because you rotate the leg outward at the hip joint.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with your legs together and straight above your hips.
2. Flex your feet so your heels are pointing to the ceiling.
3. Keeping your ankles together, squeeze your buttocks and inner thighs so that your legs rotate at the hip joint and your toes are now facing away from your body.
4. Release your muscles and return to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Don't focus on moving your toes outward. Instead, focus on contracting your buttocks and inner thigh muscles to rotate your legs for you.
2. If it hurts your knees, modify by not rotating outward as much. If it still bothers your knees, avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:

Do 10-15 repetitions.

New test could lead to early detection of cancer

TWO of the world's leading experts in cancer diagnosis, Dr. Kim O'Neill and Dr. Byron Kerr Murray, were in Manila recently to talk on new developments in cancer detection and management.

Dr. O'Neill, a professor of microbiology at Brigham Young University for the past 19 years, discussed results of his research on a diagnostic and prognostic test for breast cancer. His research on thymidine kinase (TK) showed that TK levels were significantly elevated in the blood serum of patients with different types of tumors, compared to noncancer patients' serum. The study also indicated that breast cancer stage was directly related to serum TK levels.

Results suggested that by using TK as a monitor for cancer patients, it was possible to identify which patients would suffer early relapse. This could allow therapy to begin before the disease has recurred, thus, greatly enhancing survival and tumor management.

Through TK levels in primary tumors, it might be possible to predict accurately which patients would go experience a recurrence of the disease.

A major drawback of the research is that the TK assay is complex, difficult to perform and requires highly skilled personnel to obtain accurate and reproducible results. O'Neill has developed a more accurate and sensitive assay for TK, a monoclonal antibody, that allows the use of the TK assay in most clinical laboratories (O'Neill has recently obtained a patent on this monoclonal technology).

The new assay method would make it possible to accurately assess the.progress of breast cancer patients by serum and tumor measurements. The assay would also be a valuable aid in cancer screening and could help save many lives.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
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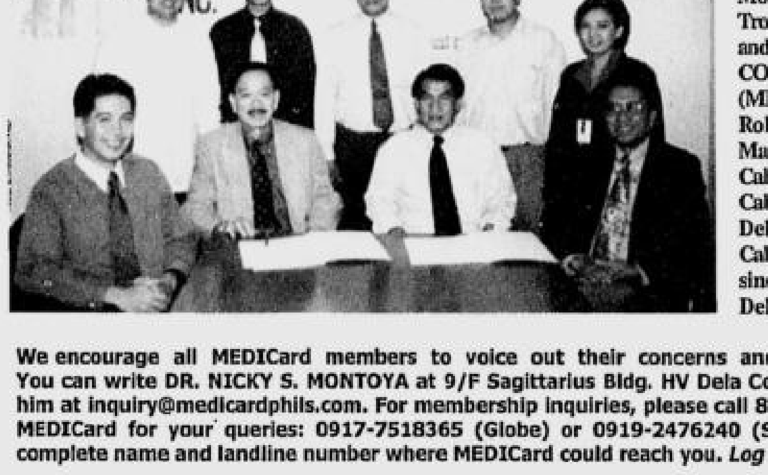
FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Who are the people behind MEDICard?
MEDICard is the brainchild of its President and Chairman of the Board, Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya, one of the country's top urologists. Unlike other Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), MEDICard is being run and operated by doctors. Other respected Board of Directors are Dr. Concepcion S. Montoya, Dr. Augusto P. Litonjua, Dr. Rafael S. Recto, Dr. Martesio C. Perez, Dr. Belen H. Pe, Dr. Eduardo R. Mercado and Reynaldo S. Tanjangco, CPA. Likewise, most of its personnel (those you get in touch with daily) are also from the allied medical field. This is an advantage in a sense that your needs are being addressed on a professional level and at the same time extended the compassion of trained medical personnel who understand the trouble and pains of illnesses or injuries.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard's Pediatrician at the Medical City Satellite Clinic is Dr. Anna Liza T. Vidal-Galing. Doc Anna is a UST 1991 graduate with specialization training from the Makati Medical Center. She is a member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and has been practicing her specialization since 1995. She spends most of her free time enjoying movies with her husband Rimez Anthony and reading books. You can visit Doc Anna Liza at the MEDICard -Medical City Satellite Clinic every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon to 6 PM.

Contract Signing



THE PHILIPPINE HOME CABLE HOLDINGS, INC. signed its third year corporate healthcare program with MEDICard on the stormy day of July 05. Present during the ceremonies were (seated L-R) Mr. Luis S. Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM), Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (MEDICard President), Mr. Manuel B. Trovela (Home Cable Industrial Relations Manager) and Mr. Nomy Molina (Gotuaco, Del Rosario EVP & COO); (standing L-R) Mr. Voltaire R. Victoria (MEDICard Marketing and Sales Manager), Mr. Robert John T. Chainani (MEDICard Asst. Supervisor-Marketing and Sales), Mr. Allan O. Bulaquia (Home Cable IRD Supervisor), Mr. Rajah D. Montales (Home Cable IRD Staff) and Ms. Susan P. Abing (Gotuaco, Del Rosario Employee Benefits Supervisor). Home Cable has been one of MEDICard's valued clients since 1999 through their insurance broker, Gotuaco, Del Rosario & Associates, Inc.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

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Osang forces us to confront our own hypocrisy

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

EVEN before I personally met Rosanna Roces in 1999, I already noticed how different she is from the stereotype of a sex goddess in the local movie world. She struck me as witty, brutally frank, mentally honest and completely uninhibited. I was curious to know whether that personality was just for public consumption, for show, and may not necessarily reflect anything more than mere movie propaganda.

A hint that this was no ordinary showgirl came when I read a lengthy interview of her in a major national newspaper. On the second page of that feature story, Osang mentioned about soul mates and said she knew about that concept because she had read it in my book "Soul Mates, Karma and Reincarnations." In my opinion, anybody who reads and appreciates my books and other writings cannot be an ordinary person. He or she must definitely be a very progressive and an unorthodox thinker.

From that time on I wanted to meet Osang in person. I had a hundred and one questions to ask her. Shortly after that article about her came out in the papers, I learned from her psychic friend from Binangonan, Miguelito Mindaño, that she was also very interested in meeting the author of those books on paranormal phenomena and Philippine mysticism. I didn't realize she was deeply interested in those subjects.

During her first visit to my office in Makati, we hit it off right away. She was very friendly, very casual, exuberant and full of questions. She wanted to know everything about spirit guides, angels, elves and many other paranormal and spiritual topics. I was completely taken by surprise at her intense interest in these things. And she has also read the life of Helena P. Blavatsky, founder of the worldwide organization known as Theosophy. She told me Madame Blavatsky is her spirit guide. This was a big surprise for me. But this was confirmed by Mindaño and, two years later, by another psychic and clairvoyant, Linda Ferido.

ROSANNA Roces

To many people, Osang is simply a sex symbol, a controversial movie star who readily disrobes before the camera without any hint of embarrassment or hesitation. Some people have found fault with her for this, saying that she does it merely to attract attention. But I cannot agree.

Truly human

Even before I met Osang personally, I already suspected she was more than just a pretty face, or a sensual body, or a witty mind. When I personally met and talked to her at length, I confirmed my suspicion that there was more to Osang than meets the eye.

Despite her lack of higher education and intellectual sophistication, she exhibits a keen native intelligence and unusual mental honesty that is utterly lacking in most people in that profession.

Actually, I believe that Osang is teaching the Filipino people certain bitter lessons about life, honesty and reality. By being brutally frank, honest and totally candid about herself, she is teaching us to look at reality as it is, without rationalization or bias. Acceptance of the truth, no matter how ugly it is, is a sign of wisdom. Being true to one's self is a condition sine qua non of being true to others.

As William Shakespeare said in "Hamlet," "Above all, to thine own self be true/ And it must follow as the night the day/ Thou cans't not then be false to any man."

Most of us cannot confront our deepest fears, weaknesses, desires and sexual fantasies and put them up in the open, to be seen by others. Osang teaches us that there's nothing to fear as long as we are truthful and honest about them.

That's why Osang can say whatever she has in mind without any inhibition at all. She can completely undress before an audience without an iota of embarrassment at all. She finds nothing wrong with it as long as it is the naked truth. Probably her disarming and honest manner is what enables us to look at her naked body without blushing or feeling that we are violating her or peeping at her, unlike looking surreptitiously between the legs of a woman in mini skirt in a jeepney, for example.

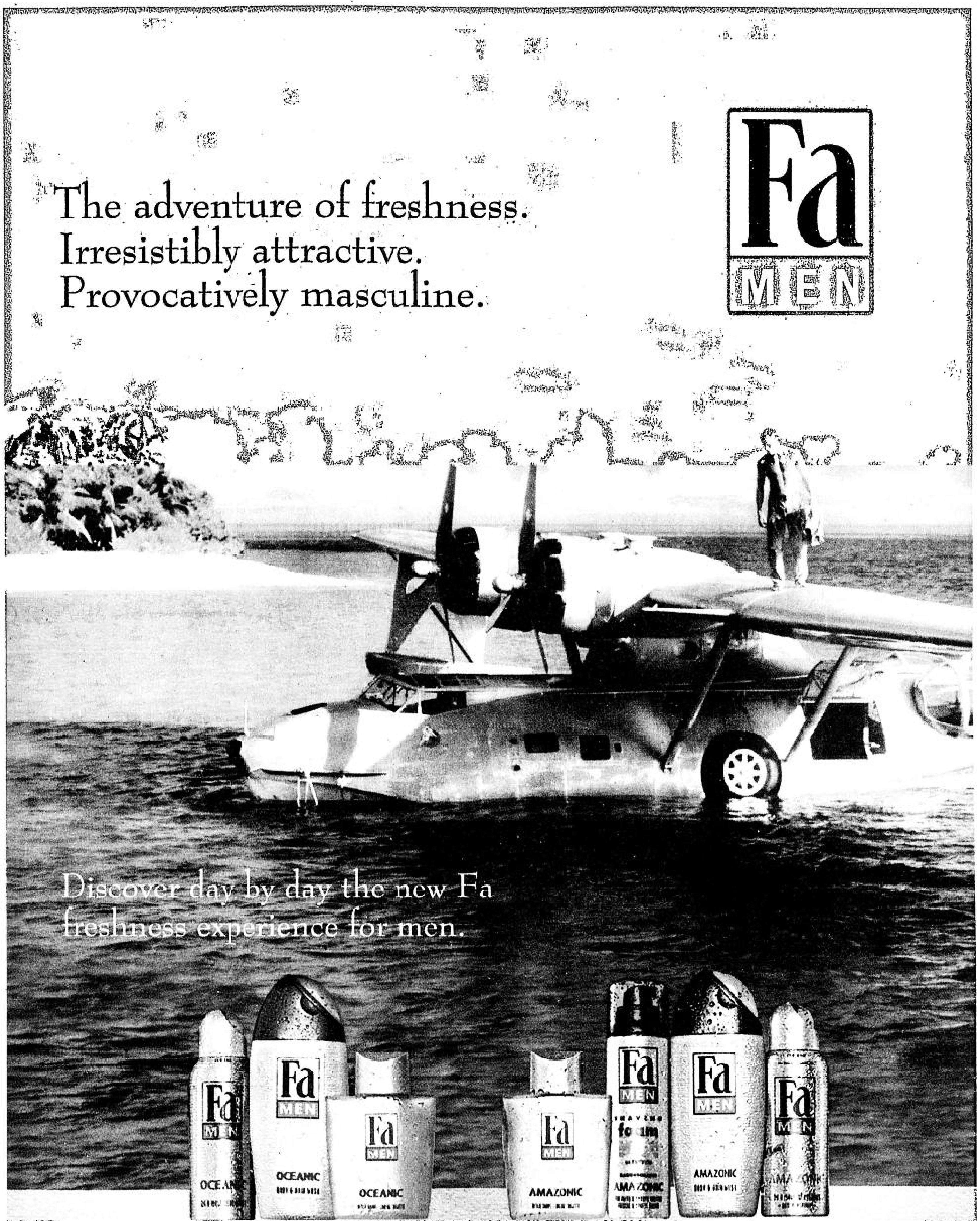
In a country like the Philippines, where religious, social and interpersonal hypocrisy is the norm, where everything unorthodox or sexual is considered immoral, it is refreshing to have in our midst somebody who forces us to confront our hypocrisy and mental dishonesty.

I'm sure that deep inside every Filipina woman's subconscious mind, there is a secret or suppressed desire to do what Osang does, to have a beautiful body, acquire many admirers of the opposite sex and have the guts to display that body openly.

And I'm sure that in the minds of every red-blooded Filipino male, there is a subconscious hidden fantasy to go to bed with Osang and make love to her passionately. But this is something we cannot admit to ourselves, much less to our spouse or the general public. And so we look at such a woman with disdain and scorn, which is really a psychological defense mechanism.

Instead of condemning or criticizing a woman like Osang, we should perhaps look at ourselves, be thankful to her for reminding us that being truly human with very human desires is not being bad at all. And we should perhaps tell all her detractors, quoting Jesus Christ, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone."

E-mail the author at jlicauco-@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco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Ang bangong amuyin. Ang sarap yakapin.

Look, Ma, an ortho in the mall!

(From page C1)

practice of orthodontics requires professional skill in the design, application and control of corrective appliances, such as braces, to bring teeth, lips and jaws into proper alignment and to achieve facial balance. All orthodontists are dentists, but only a small percentage of dentists are orthodontists. An orthodontist is a specialist in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities.

Tan notes that most of her patients come to Healthway clinic because they aren't too comfortable in a hospital or clinic setting. "I've heard them say that they feel less tense when they are here," she says. For parents, there is also the convenience of being able to do errands while the child is having braces adjusted. "They make it a family affair," she says. "The whole family tags along mostly on weekends. They leave the patient with us and after an hour or so, come back with their shopping done." Plus, if you get to the clinic before the mall opens, the whole parking area is yours for the picking.

Do it before seven

Tan's patients vary in age from young children to teenagers to adults. Children and adults can both benefit from orthodontics because healthy teeth can be moved at almost any age. Tan says that monitoring growth and development is crucial to managing some orthodontic problems well.

The Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO), a specialty organization founded in 1980 to promote and encourage high standard of excellence in orthodontic treatment and education, recommends that all children have an orthodontic screening no later than age 7. Some orthodontic problems may be easier to correct if treated early. Waiting until all the permanent teeth have come in, or until facial growth is nearly complete, may make correction of some problems more difficult.

Tan explains that by age 7 enough permanent teeth have come in and enough jaw growth has occurred that the dentist or an orthodontist can identify current problems, anticipate future problems and alleviate parents' concerns if all seems normal. The first permanent molars and incisors have usually come in by age 7, and crossbites, crowding and developing injury-prone dental protrusions can be evaluated. Any ongoing finger sucking or other oral habits can be assessed at this time also.

According to the American Association of Orthodontists, habits like mouth-breathing, thumb-sucking, finger-sucking and biting the cheek or roof of the mouth may necessitate an early orthodontic examination, as do the following signs:

- early or late loss of baby teeth
- difficulty in chewing or biting
- crowding, misplaced or blocked out teeth
- jaws that shift or make sounds
- teeth that meet abnormally or not at all; or
- jaws and teeth that are out of proportion to the rest of the face.

An orthodontic screening no later than age 7 enables the orthodontist to detect and evaluate problems, advise if treatment is necessary and determine the best time for that patient to be treated. Tan adds that an orthodontic evaluation at any age is advisable if a parent, family dentist or the patient's physician has noted a problem.

Problems to look out for

There are early warnings that may indicate a need for orthodontic treatment. "When parents come to me wondering why their kids have misaligned permanent teeth when when their kids had perfectly aligned teeth as babies, I tell them that the straight baby teeth should have been a cause for worry."

Tan advises parents to look out for the following indicators:

Crowding: Teeth may be aligned poorly because the dental arch is small and/or the teeth are large. The bone and gums over the roots of extremely crowded teeth may become thin and recede as a result of severe crowding. Impacted teeth (teeth that should have come in but have not), poor bite and undesirable appearance may all result from crowding.

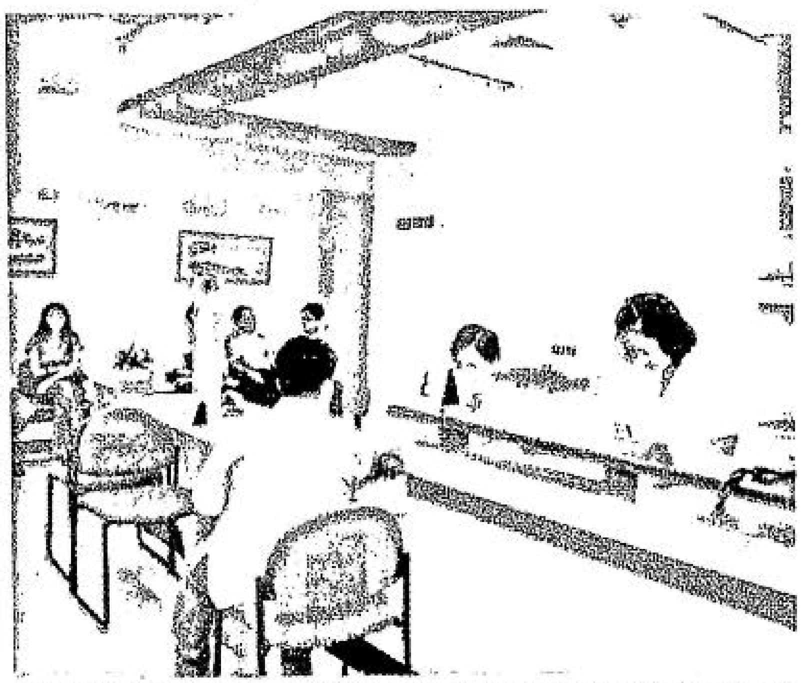
Overjet or protruding upper teeth: Upper front teeth that protrude beyond normal contact with the lower front teeth are prone to injury, often indicate a poor bite of the back teeth (molars), and may mean an unevenness in jaw growth. Commonly, protruded upper teeth are associated with a lower jaw that is short in proportion to the upper jaw. Thumb and finger sucking habits can also cause a protrusion of the upper incisor teeth.

Deep overbite: A deep overbite or deep bite occurs when the lower incisor (front) teeth bite is too close or into the gum tissue behind the upper teeth. When the lower front teeth bite into the palate or gum tissue behind the upper front teeth, significant bone damage and discomfort can occur. A deep bite can also contribute to excessive wear of the incisor teeth.

Open bite: An open bite results when the upper and lower incisor teeth do not touch when biting down. This open space between the upper and lower front teeth causes all the chewing pressure to be placed on the back teeth. This excessive biting pressure and rubbing together of the back teeth makes chewing less efficient and may contribute to significant tooth wear.

Spacing: If teeth are missing or small, or the dental arch is very wide, space between the teeth can occur. The most common complaint from those with excessive space is poor appearance.

MALL MEDICINE. Façade of Healthway Medical Clinic at Festival Mall in Alabang


A CLEAN and spacious waiting area by the nurse's station at Healthway Medical Clinic

Crossbite: The most common type of crossbite is when the upper teeth bite inside the lower teeth (toward the tongue). Crossbites of both back teeth and front teeth are commonly corrected early due to biting and chewing difficulties.

Underbite or lower jaw protrusion: About 3-5 percent of the population has a lower jaw that is to some degree longer than the upper jaw. This can cause the lower front teeth to protrude ahead of the upper front teeth creating a crossbite. Careful monitoring of jaw growth and tooth development is indicated for these patients.

Shopping for an orthodontist

Orthodontic treatment does not come cheap though Tan is quick to say that the Philippines has the lowest rate in Asia. In the United States, braces can cost $5,000. In Singapore and Hong Kong the price ranges from $2000-3,000. The good news is the APO has standardized its rates. Currently, the most expensive treatment is within the range of P50,000-75,000. If you do preventive orthodontics and catch the defect earlier, it will even cost much less.

"We did this in order to protect both the consumers and the industry," Tan says. "All the equipment that we use is from the US plus the training that we receive." She emphasizes that the price of the equipment used for treatment makes it impossible to peg rates at such a ridiculously low level. Stories have been told of "recycled braces"and this is something that parents need to be wary about. You certainly wouldn't want another child's braces inside your child's mouth; this is one area where the practice of recycling is not advocated at all.

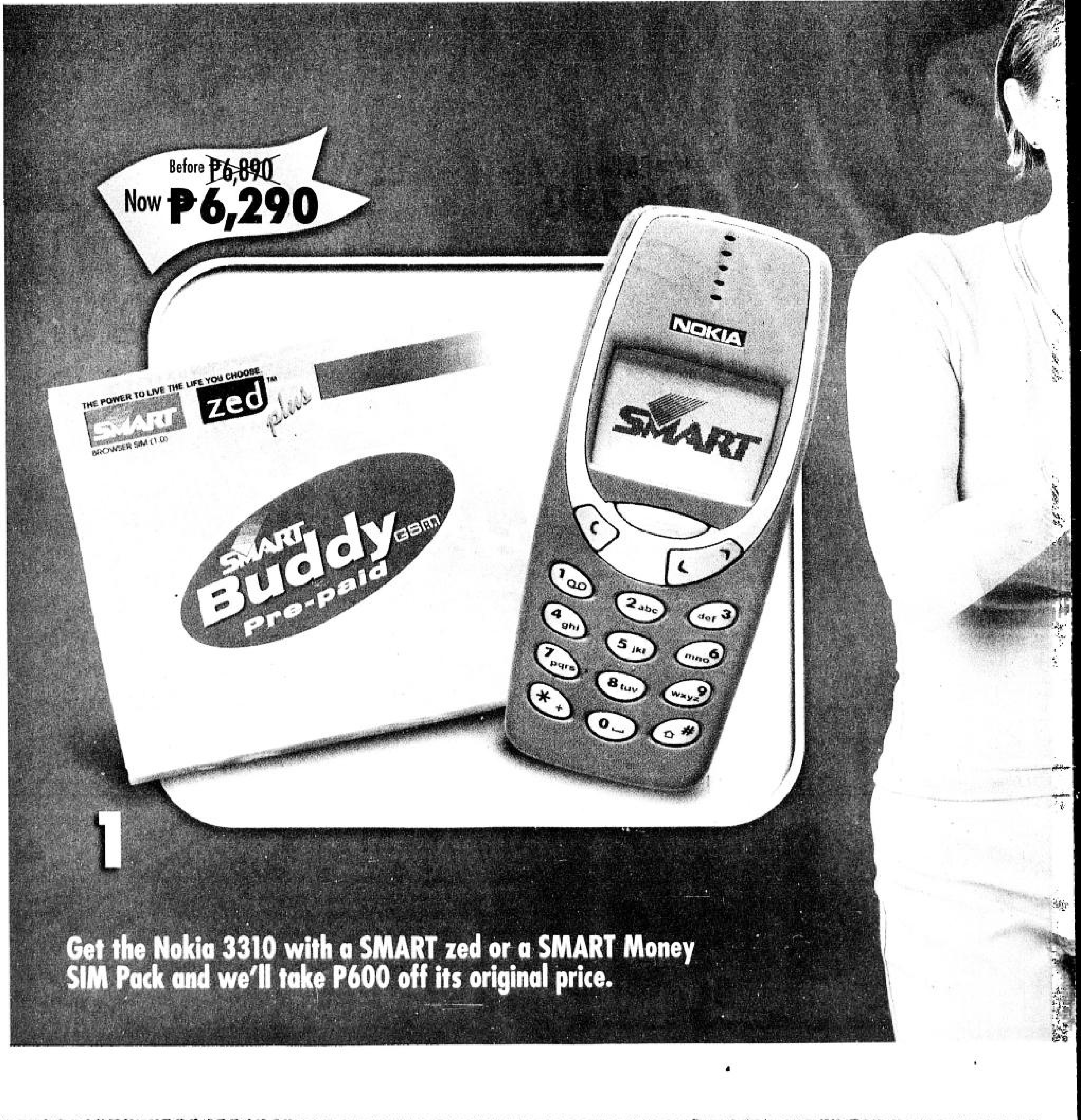
She stresses that there are many "quack" orthodontists who charge a fraction of the fees set by the APO for its members. "How they are able to do that is a big mystery that should make the consumer wary." APO members also socialize their fees whenever necessary. When they see that the patient needs the treatment badly and cannot afford it, they do charity work from time to time. "It's best to go with an orthodontist who has been screened and certified by the APO, that way you'll have peace of mind and know that your money won't go to waste and you are being treated by someone who is competent," Tan closes. The APO has a roster of a hundred and plus members all over the country whose names and contact numbers can be accessed through the APO office.

It is not surprising, of course, that a highly visible ortho practice like Joji Tan's should attract a large clientele. Tan's clinic at the mall is open on weekends. How much more convenient can it be? Mom won't have to leave work, pick up her kid from school, take him to the ortho, drive him back to school and then go back to work.

Healthway Medical Clinic is at 2/L Pixieforest entrance, Festival Supermall, Alabang. The Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO) may be reached at 890-2824 or 890-2832.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

TWO AMAZING CHOIC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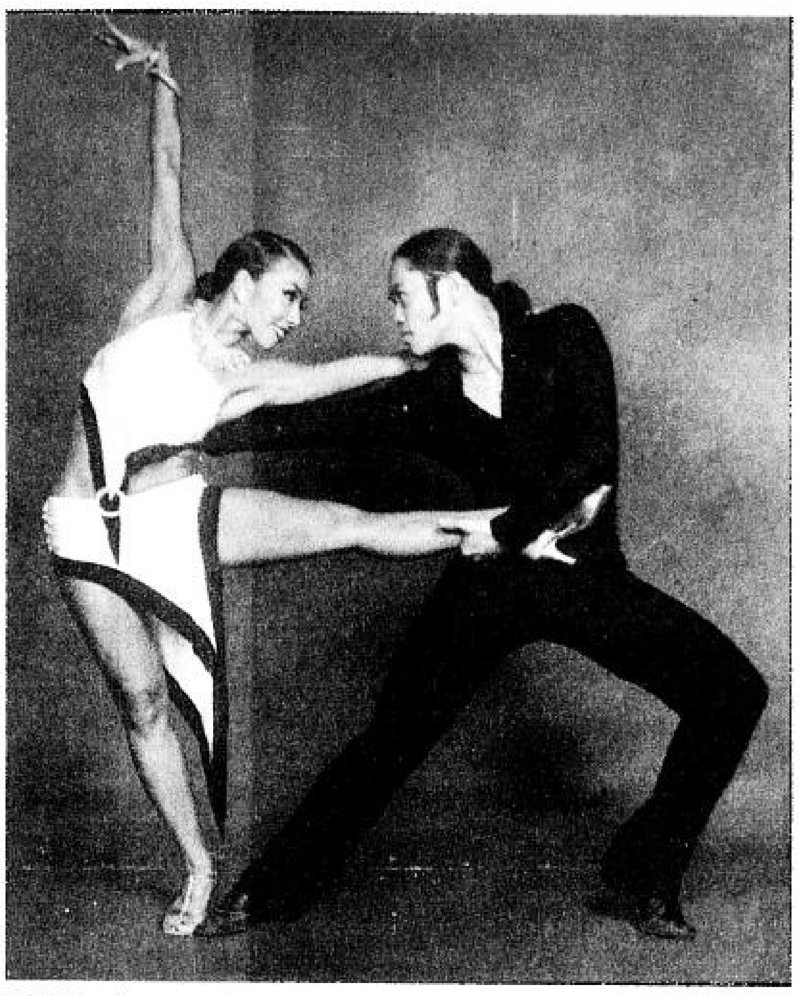
1

Get the Nokia 3310 with a SMART zed or a SMART Money SIM Pack and we'll take P600 off its original price.

SKY Choi, China; Allan Yeh, Taipe; Scott Todd, Hong Kong and Scandinavian Dance Champion; Shirley Boey, AVP international marketing manager, Legenda Hotel; Loke Siew Fong, international marketing manager, Legenda Hotel; SBMA Chair Tong Payumo; the author; Jun Herrera, DSCP VP; lawyer Jo Saliva, DSCP secretary; Gloria Alcala, DSCP treasurer; lawyer Andy Fornier, DSCP director and Luisito Abrea



EDNA Ledesma and new partner

Five swinging years and still growing

BY BECKY GARCIA

FIVE years have passed since I founded and organized the Dancesport Council of the Phils., and I must say we have covered a lot of ground. Dancesport has rapidly developed all over the country through the workshops and regional competitions we have conducted. Dancesport athletes are also multiplying.

The active participation of students and local schools with the support of the Department of Culture, Education and Sports and the Commission on Higher Education has also boosted the promotion of dancesport. Even teachers are encouraged by the DECS to take up dancesport workshops conducted by foreign coaches where they learn the proper techniques and syllabus. Some schools have included dancesport as part of their curriculum in Physical Education and I hope one day the DECS will require all the public and private schools to implement the inclusion of dancesport.

THE AUTHOR at the IDST Annual General Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland

Twice the audience

Last year in October saw the 4th National Championship with over 200 couples participating all over the country. This is a good sign that more and more enthusiasts are becoming aware of dancesport. We also got an audience double the number of the past years. One day our sport will become as popular as other sports like basketball and boxing. We brought in the Asian Dancesport Federation president and Presidium member of IDSF Mr. Keiji Ukai from Japan to head the panel of adjudicators.

This year in March the DSCP staged the 2nd Quarterly National Ranking and Competition-Alaxan Cup at the George Dewey Theatre in Subic with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority headed by chair Felicito Payumo. We brought in Scott Todd, Scandinavian Ten Dance champion, to conduct the lecture, workshops and adjudicating together with two other adjudicators from Taipeh and Hong Kong. Italian Professional Rising Star Standard champions Mirko and Marika Selli did a beautiful demonstration show during the competition.

We are holding the 5th Midyear Ranking & Competition-Alaxan Cup on July 14. We have invited Wolfgang Opitz, coach of all world-class dancers and champions, to conduct the workshops and adjudicate. We are lucky to have such a prominent name in the dancesport world. The winners of the 5th Midyear Ranking & Competition in Standard and Latin will be sent to the IDSF Asia-Pacific Championship in Sydney, Australia on Sept. 22.

Our 5th National Dancesport Championship this year will be held on Sept. 29, also at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. To conduct the workshops on Sept. 27 and 28 and to adjudicate will be the UK Professional Open Rising Star champions and European Ten Dance champions John Byrnes and Jane Lyttleton. The champions in the Youth, Standard and Latin will represent the Philippines in the IDSF Asian Dancesport Championship 2001 in Taipeh on Oct. 13 and 14.

In the international scene, we have also made our presence felt. The Philippines has been a regular member since 1997 of two powerful world bodies—the Lausanne-based International Dancesport Federation—the amateur body which was successful in getting ballroom dancing recognized by the International Olympic Committee as a sport, hence the word Dancesport and the World Dance & Dancesport Council, the professional body based in England.

Since then, I have been attending the Annual General Meeting of both bodies represented by the Dancesport Council to IDSF meetings and the Professional Dance Teachers Association of which I also organized to represent the PDTA to WD & DSC meetings.

World-ranking list

We were lucky that the Philippines was chosen by IDSF as one of the 20 member countries out of 76 all over the world to send a Latin American entry, Belinda Adora and Genice Marquez, to the World Games in Akita, Japan. As what IDSF sports director Heinz Spaeker said, the Philippines was chosen because it is now in the World Ranking list. What a big leap in five years. Philippines is also now ranking 4th in the Asia-Pacific Region and 3rd in Asia.

Just recently in the 6th Singapore Superstar International Dancesport Championship 2001, our Standard Amateur Couple Edgar Borromeo and Ana Dulce Yango won the gold in the Asia-Pacific Closed competition and 4th place in the Open competition. While the Latin Amateur Couple Edna Ledesma and new partner Brian Lee Callo won the bronze both in the Asia-Pacific Closed Competition and Open Competition, competing against entries from South Africa, Australia, Khazakstan, Canada and other Asian countries.

Meanwhile, as we eagerly await the announcement of dancesport as a medal sport in the Olympics in the year 2008, we continuously promote dancesport all over the country through the trimedia: a dancesport segment on the weekly television program "Eezy Dancing" on Channel 5 (every Sunday, 9-10 p.m.); on air via the radio program "Dancesport with Becky" (every Saturday, 2:30-4 p.m.) NBC Angel Radyo 1026 AM; and in this section whenever space allows.

We have also visited several cities of the Philippines—Cebu, General Santos, Cotobato, Davao, the Bicol region, NCR regions, conducting workshops and competitions. We hope to cover more areas of the country even as our city and regional chapters are doing their own promotion by conducting workshops with the different barangays and students of the different schools and universities in their regions.

The brand-new training center and office of Dancesport Council at the Philsport Complex came about because Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason saw an urgent need for one.

This year also saw some dancesport couples changing partners. This is a good sign that more athletes are born. Unfortunately, some have been misguided by their supporters and sponsors. We just hope and pray that only good will come out of situations like this. We are also looking after our juvenile, junior and youth athletes as they will be the future of dancesport—our future Olympians.

My advice to all our members and supporters is: Let us put aside all our differences and work together toward our common goal.

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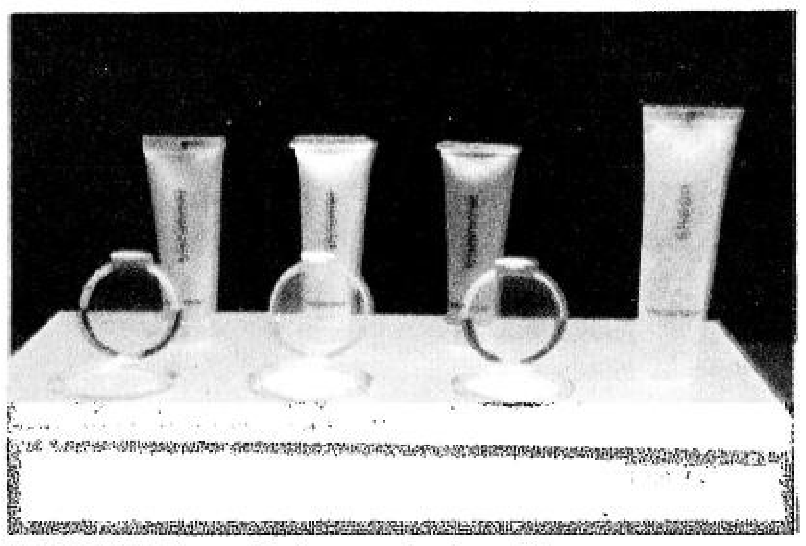
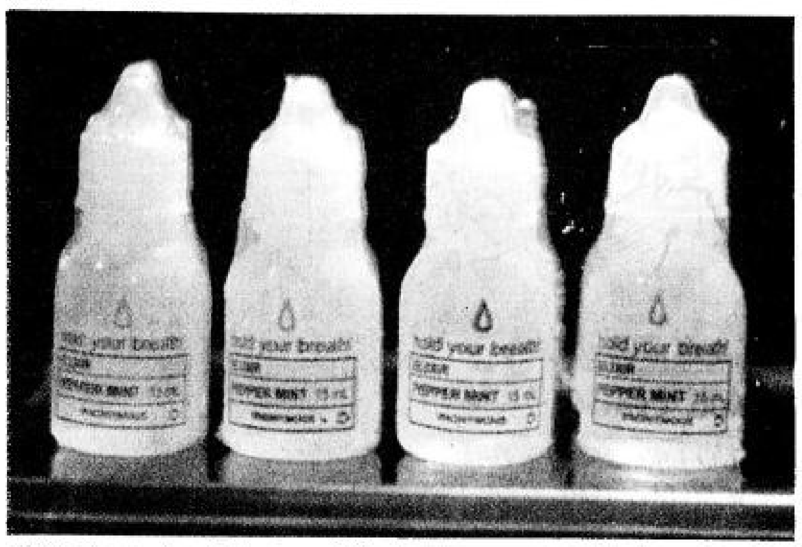


TRISHIMMER is used for the eyes, cheeks and lips

ALL-NATURAL handmade soaps have healing and soothing properties



NOT an eye-drop, but a breath freshener

Beauty and bath lines from someone not-so-anonymous

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

SURE, beauty comes from within. It radiates from having a sound disposition in life. But let's face it, it's difficult to feel beautiful when your skin is dry and flaky, your hair has split ends and your lips are constantly dry.

Model-turned-entrepreneur Tina Maristela-Ocampo knows only too well that looking good is a 24-hour job. Though the market is already saturated with products claiming to be good for your body, from your head down to your toes, Ocampo has joined the bandwagon in hopes of offering better alternatives.

Tina has come out with the apothecary line of Anonymous, the trendy chain of shops she runs with husband Ricco. "Since people are always on the go, we've developed products we feel they can use for their daily activities," she says.

Personal hygiene

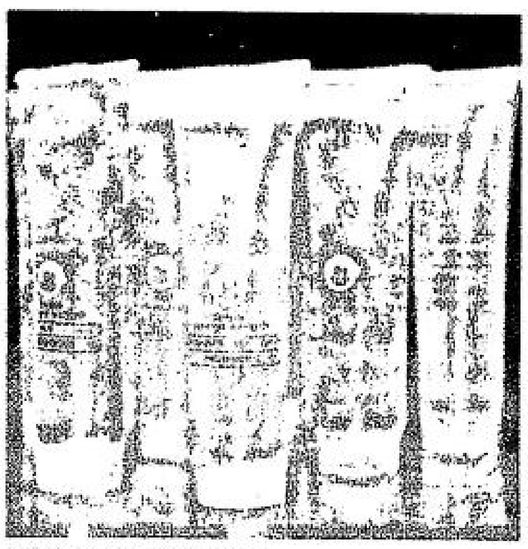
When Anonymous introduced its apothecary line two years ago, the bath soaps became the top sellers. These all-natural handmade soaps are often sought for their healing and soothing properties. Made from essential oils of plants, fruits and flowers, the soaps are made exclusively for Anonymous by Nelia Silverio-Dee. Tina says each variety of soap is a product of their constant experimentation. "We tell Nelia the kind of blends and scents we want to have, and she tells us the benefits from each of them," says Tina, who's in charge of product development.

The soaps come with a little brochure explaining the ingredients used and what good each ingredient offers the consumer. For example, the peppermint oatmeal—a blend of oatmeal, peppermint, orange and lemon—soothes and stimulates dry and sensitive skin, while treating acne, dermatitis, ringworm and scabies. The papaya sliver, with papaya, oatmeal and floral fruity blends, offers a sensual fragrance and soothing aroma to calm the senses. Rosemary's baby, with basil leaves, rosemary botanicals and rosemary essentials, refreshes the skin and relieves rheumatic and muscular pains. Poppy carve, with passion fruit oils and poppy seeds, gives a good scrub for rough parts of the body, such as calluses and knees.

Good grooming starts from the head so hair care counts the most. Since peppermint is an excellent ingredient to soothe and relax the scalp, Anonymous formulated a gentle shampoo and conditioner with peppermint. "The peppermint is combined with some gentle ingredients that you can use every day. The soothing feeling lingers for two to three minutes. After a day's work, the shampoo can actually relax you and de-stress you," assures Tina. The ingredients for the shampoo and conditioner are from Germany, but are blended locally.

THE BEAUTY behind the apothecary line is Tina Maristela-Ocampo

It's all about looking good and feeling nice from your hair down to your toes



NON-STICKY hair gels

CHICK FLICK
Feminin Wipes
P 6.00

FEMININE wipes packaged individually in sachets for traveling convenience

Anonymous tries to limit its hair-care product only to one kind of shampoo, conditioner and hair gel. "We felt that it's better to introduce a limited line that's well-studied to give customers their money's worth," says Tina. "We also want our clients to appreciate every item we introduce and make them believe in it. We don't want them to be overwhelmed with so many products that they get confused."

Anonymous also considers personal cleanliness that include hand cleansing gel, deodorants for men and women, breath freshener and a daily facial rinse.

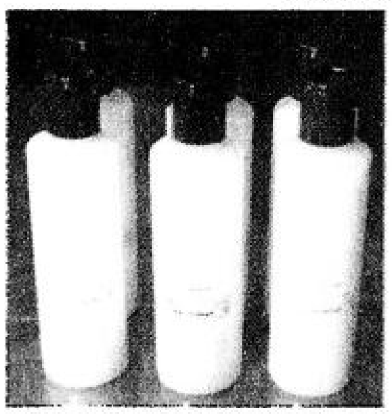
Women will also love Tina for her "invention" of feminine wipes called Chick Flicks. "I'm very emphatic about this product because this has never been popularized," says Tina, who knows only too well what women need. "One study showed that urine and water mixed together elicit a foul smell." The feminine wipes have the odor-ex ingredient made from the zinc salt of ricinoleic acid, an active deodorizing substance with non-bactericidal effect. Oder-ex eliminates the odors and at the same has the CLA, a cleansing agent that kills the bacteria. Because they have no synthetic additives, the wipes do not irritate a woman's private parts. They are also mild and safe enough to use as baby wipes.

The wipes look like towelettes packaged individually in sachets for traveling convenience. "It took us six months to find the right manufacturer for the wipes," says Tina, who brings about 12 packs everywhere she goes.

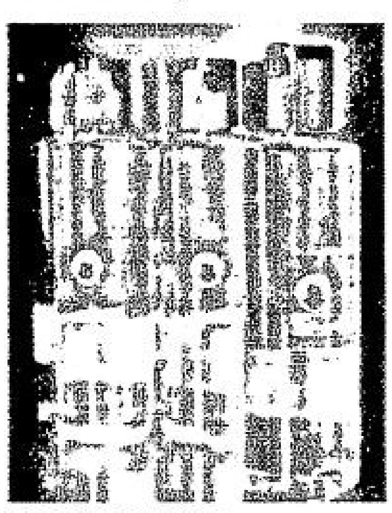
Beauty enhancers

Tina has also launched a new cosmetics line—foundation for wet and dry application, trishimmer, lipstick in nude colors, lipgloss, eye shadow in pale colors.

The lipsticks, which so far have 15 types of shades, cater to all skin types—mestiza and *morena*. For the moisturizing lipsticks and Vitamin E, Tina chose and tested all the colors. "During our research and selection, I got five of our employees with different skin types. I had to choose a shade that will be perfect for each one. This was how I was able to come up with all the range of colors." To name some, there's deep red no. 4 for the dark-skinned, pink no. 8 for the mestizas, and earth colors for the fair-skinned.



CONDITIONER for de-tangling and moisturizing hair



MENTHOLATED shampoo formulated for normal to dry hair

The trishimmer, the newest in the line, can be used three ways—for the eyes, the cheeks or the lips. It will give the skin a soft glow that lasts. It can be applied over foundation, or on bare skin. Trishimmer can be added on top of regular lipstick or eyeshadow for a shimmering effect.

Tina recalls the manufacturer gave her 30 shades of foundation and it took her two years to actually choose the good ones. "This is the foundation I can say I can use and is at par with the other prominent cosmetic names. It doesn't flake or make your face oily." The satiny smooth foundation can be used dry for a natural matte look, or wet for a sheer luminous look.

Does a person need all these products? Well, the apothecary line at Anonymous or any other store is really about feeling good because you feel clean and look beautiful more than anything else. These things bolster your well-being. "Of course, having a pleasant personality counts a lot," adds Ocampo.

A little vanity completes the picture.

Sterling service at Cooper's new salon

JAMES Cooper has opened another world-class and decadent salon. Located on the ground floor of the Arete Square Building on Congressional Avenue (tels. 927-5720/30), the salon is designed with customer pampering in mind—from the ample parking to the wooden walkway that leads into the main salon, from the cool temperature to the well thought-out sectioning of the salon.

The salon is divided into sections specifically for women, men, children and a special closed-off area for sauna and massage.

Each stylist and specialist has undergone rigid professional training and is an expert in his or her respective fields. The variety of services include haircut, hair coloring, makeup, facial, foot scrub and nail care. And as a gift, James Cooper offers special bridal packages to make the bride even more beautiful and glowing on her day.

There's also the complimentary ginseng tea and various refreshments from the mini bar.

Men will appreciate the barbers' expertise in the men's section, whatever particular choice of haircut or style they want, complete with a face wash and massage. Free hand and back massages are also available for anyone who wants them.

The children's section is filled with toys, books and car-like kiddie barber seats.

All equipment and supplies are clean and hygienic. Combs, brushes, nail cutters, nippers and other communal equipment are soaked in Barbicide disinfectant to make sure each client gets the best and freshest of everything.

Please pass the iodized salt

HAVE you been putting a dash of iodized salt in your cooking?

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit reminds everyone, mothers especially, about the importance of using iodized salt: "Iodine is needed for the proper development of the brains of children," he said.

"If children are iodine-deficient, their IQ may drop by as much as 15 percent. Lack of iodine in children can also lead to hypothyroidism, which in newborn is characterized by jaundice, poor appetite, constipation, slowed bone growth. If not diagnosed and treated within a few mouths of birth, hypothyroidism results in mental retardation."

"In contrast, only a small amount of iodized salt every day is needed to supply the iodine requirement of the body," adds Dr. Teofilo San Luis, president of the Philippine Thyroid Association.

Secretary Dayrit said that iodine deficiency remains a public health concern in the Philippines in spite of the ASIN law passed eight years ago, which pushed for greater use of iodized salt. Data from the Food and Nutrition Research institute (FNRI) shows that 36 out of 100 children in the country are iodine-deficient.

To combat the problem, Dayrit said he has sought the cooperation of local government units to check if public markets sell iodized salt. He also launched early this week the Thyromobil campaign, with Merck Philippines Inc., the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), Philippine Thyroid Association and the Philippine Society of Endocrine and Metabolism.

Thyromobil, a specially equipped mobile laboratory for conducting iodine analysis, is in the country to survey school children in six provinces. It conducts tests of urine samples, and uses ultrasound for detecting goiter, as part of the overall effort to assess the status of iodine intake especially in children.

Data gathered by Thyromobil will be used to validate the FNRI statistics, as well as serve as the basis for future interventions to eliminate iodine deficiency disease in the country, Dayrit added.

New ways to prevent hair loss

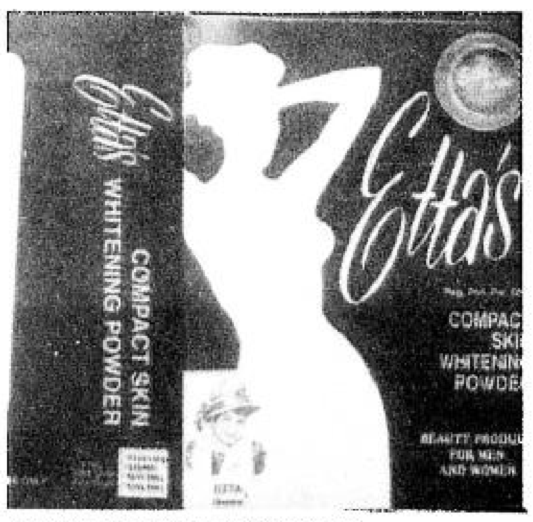
SVENSON International offers several new products to minimize hair loss and prevent baldness from spreading.

Tricho-DHT Inhibitor has been proven effective in combating dihydrotestosterone (DHT), the main culprit in male pattern baldness. The inhibitor helps stop further hair loss and contain baldness.

Another innovation from Svenson is the Laser Hair Cell Accelerator. Developed in Germany, this treatment has shown remarkable results in hair regrowth and recovery. A special soft laser used directly on the scalp acts like a light vitamin to increase the amount and prolong the life of hair cells.

For baldness problems, the Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) is the most advanced non-surgical hair replacement technology ever developed. It is seamless, unnoticeable and totally convincing as real hair, even to a conscious probing touch.

Call the Svenson International hair and scalp clinics at 817-2260/2194 (Makati), 372-6631/6632 (QC), 2430128/244-8913(Binondo), 842-1389/4181(Alabang) and (092)233-7631/7633 (Cebu).



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BEAUTY PRODUCT FOR MEN AND WOMEN

WHITENING POWDER

Etta's pre-mixed compact contains skin whitening powder that is effective in whitening areas of dark skin and helping prevent freckles, pimples and blackheads. Call 847-8753 or 0917-4453185.

Freebies for moms and babies

KIMBIES recently provided fun and freebies to mommies and babies during a four-day event dubbed "Mommy, Kimbies and Me" at the Ever Gotesco Malls (Ortigas-Extension, Commonwealth, C.M. Recto and Grand Central).

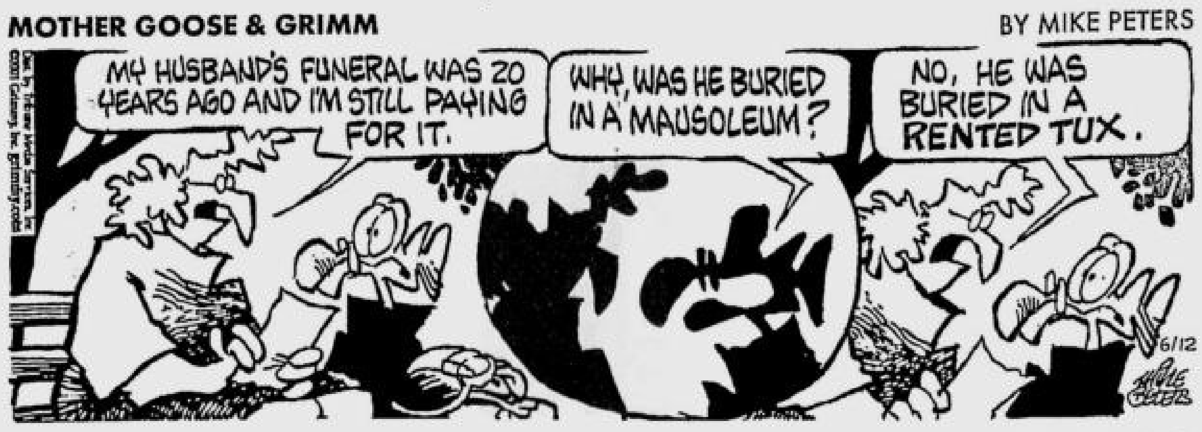
For a minimum purchase of P100 worth of Kimbies Belt-Style, new Kimbies Plus and/or new Kimbies Diaper Pads from the booth or supermarket, consumers were entitled to join the "Pick-A-Prize" promo wherein they were able to bring home special gift items on the spot.

The purchase also entitled moms and babies at the "O.K. (Operation Kalinga) Kay Nanay at Baby" corner to free blood pressure checkups and consultations courtesy of mom-and-child specialists. Pediatricians and Ob-gynes provided moms with professional advice and guidelines on personal health care and proper baby care.

After the medical consultations, moms also enjoyed a special place called the "Palit Diaper Corner" located just within the booth area where they changed their babies' diapers for free and without any hassles.

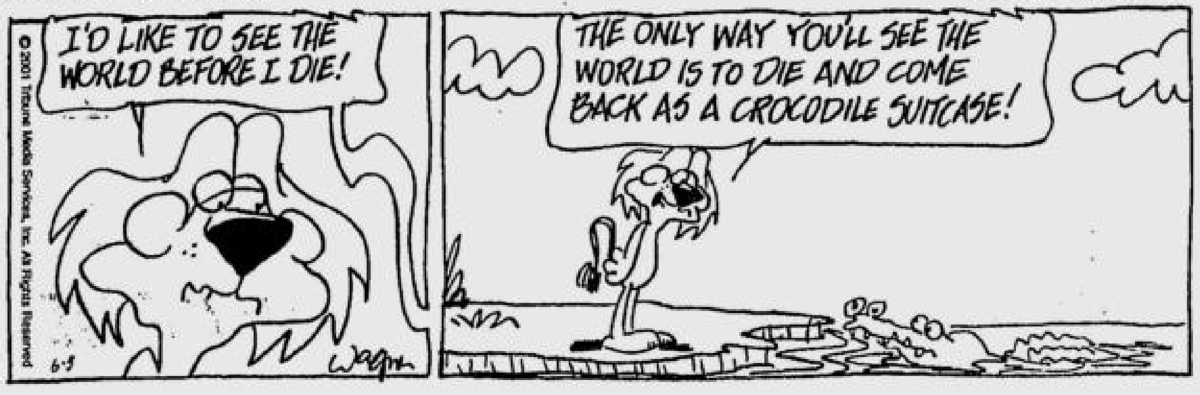
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MY HUSBAND'S FUNERAL WAS 20 YEARS AGO AND I'M STILL PAYING FOR IT.
WHY, WAS HE BURIED IN A MAUSOLEUM?
NO, HE WAS BURIED IN A RENTED TUX.
6/12

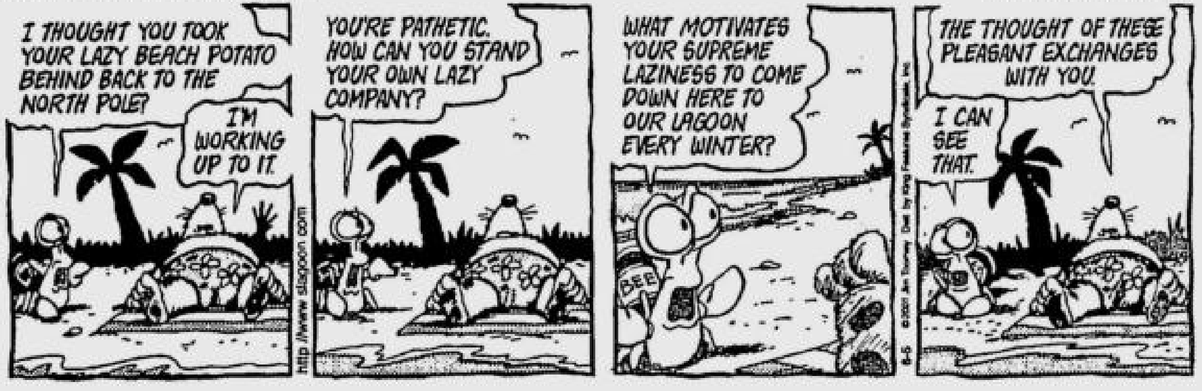
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'D LIKE TO SEE THE WORLD BEFORE I DIE!
THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL SEE THE WORLD IS TO DIE AND COME BACK AS A CROCODILE SUITCASE!
6-5

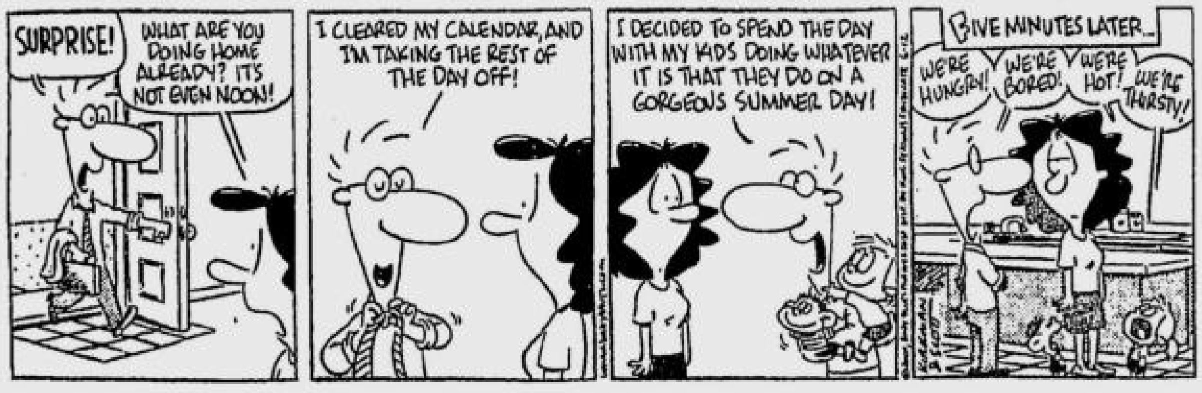
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I THOUGHT YOU TOOK YOUR LAZY BEACH POTATO BEHIND BACK TO THE NORTH POLE?
I'M WORKING UP TO IT.
YOU'RE PATHETIC. HOW CAN YOU STAND YOUR OWN LAZY COMPANY?
WHAT MOTIVATES YOUR SUPREME LAZINESS TO COME DOWN HERE TO OUR LAGOON EVERY WINTER?
THE THOUGHT OF THESE PLEASANT EXCHANGES WITH YOU.
I CAN SEE THAT.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SURPRISE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME ALREADY? IT'S NOT EVEN NOON!
I CLEARED MY CALENDAR, AND I'M TAKING THE REST OF THE DAY OFF!
I DECIDED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH MY KIDS DOING WHATEVER IT IS THAT THEY DO ON A GORGEOUS SUMMER DAY!
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
WE'RE HUNGRY!
WE'RE BORED!
WE'RE HOT!
WE'RE THIRSTY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Arlo Guthrie, David Brinkley, Omar Sharif, Haley Joel Osment, Mandy Moore

Happy Birthday: You will attract love relationships and friendships with interesting people. As long as you can maintain a positive outlook, you will have continued success. If you become moody and negative, all will be lost. Hold your head high and strive to be and to do your best. The returns will be greater than you ever imagined. It's your year to put your best foot forward and reap the rewards. Your numbers: 4, 29, 30, 31, 44, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become involved in debates that could make you look bad at work and lead to the unemployment line. It's wise to work in large groups where you can hide in the crowd.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make extra cash if you put your creative ideas to good use. Present your work to someone who is willing to help you develop your interests. Avoid family disputes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to expand your horizons. Foreign cultures will be most intriguing and open your eyes to new ways of doing things. Your observations will change your opinions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful that others don't convince you to spend money on causes you're not sure of. Take a look at personal papers and be sure that everything is up to date.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be in a strange mood concerning your personal life. Don't be too quick to judge others. You may be the one who's at fault.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Overtime will pay off. Your boss will be impressed with your loyalty, and advancement will be yours. Mix business with pleasure, and you will discover a new and exciting relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put money into personal investments. Start with changing your own image. You need to feel good about yourself if you want others to respond to you in a positive manner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let your family get to you. Socialize with friends and avoid discussions that will only result in major upsets at home. Take your time to think things through before making decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to interact with friends who have a lot to offer. Your desire to learn and expand your interests will lead to unusual activities. It's time to broaden your horizons.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let go of your past and you'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. Your emotional well-being depends on your ability to see all the possibilities. Be positive and go after your goals.

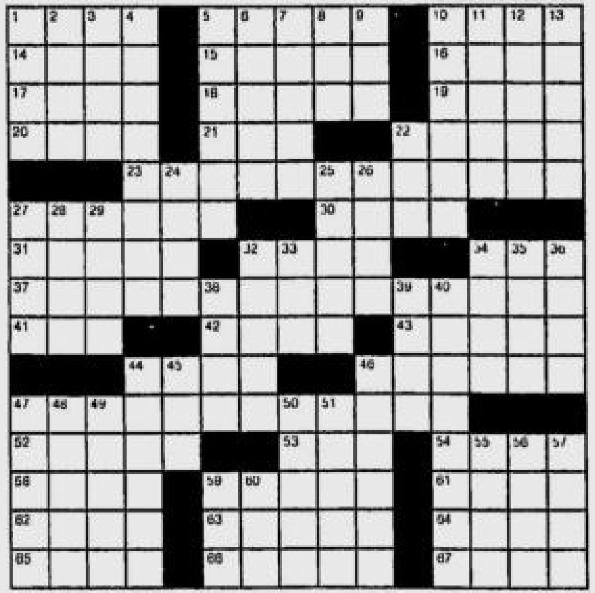
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your charisma will attract attention. Use an intellectual approach to get the best results. You're in the mood to spend some time with your lover.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get trapped in other people's melodrama. You can offer suggestions, but let them work things out on their own. You could easily ruin an important friendship. Think before you take action.

Birthday Baby: You're inquisitive to say the least. You will have your finger in every pie, always looking for something new and exciting. You're a handful to take care of but a pleasure to know. You'll always be one step ahead of the crowd.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

5/24/01

ACROSS

1 Morally smug person
5 Blaze of light
10 Touched down
14 Fish choice
15 Pay the piper
16 Call a chicken?
17 Get out of bed
18 Poetic feet
19 Meg or Irene
20 Abound
21 BSA counterpart
22 Circular
23 Start of Samuel Butler quote
27 Flew high
30 Mob violence
31 Bewildered
32 Culture medium
34 Explosive letters
37 Part 2 of quote
41 Switchback turn
42 Low places
43 Past, present or future
44 Decree
46 Offer free
47 End of quote
52 Notions
53 Coffee server
54 Actor Estrada
58 Evildoings
59 Wheel spokes
61 Sign gas
62 Analysis
63 Viewpoint
64 Sugar source
65 Takes to court
66 Scottish Highlanders
67 Otherwise

DOWN

1 Hey you!
2 Memory method
3 Nastase of tennis
4 Clear of pathogens
5 Icy
6 Rental agreement
7 Jordan's capital
8 Chest bone
9 UFO crew
10 Dexterous
11 One-handed basketball shot
12 Teheran native
13 Looks after
22 Greek letter
24 Paper quantity
25 Low, heavy carts
26 Father
27 Mall event
28 Cornelia __ Skinner
29 Queries
32 Writer Loos
33 Obtain
34 Actress Louise
35 Brooding location
36 Christmas decoration
38 Colorful marine fish
39 At the summit
40 Prison term
44 Eats sumptuously
45 Monster's possessive
46 Repudiates
47 Wet sprays
48 Farewell, Francois
49 Thickheaded
50 Push against gently
51 Baleen whale food
55 Genuine
56 Charged particles
57 Patella's location
59 Old scrap of cloth
60 Literary collection

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

O	P	E	C		C	A	T	E	R		C	O	L	T
T	O	T	O		E	L	O	P	E		O	L	I	O
I	C	O	N		L	O	G	I	C		N	E	A	R
C	O	N	S	O	L	E		C	O	N	S	O	R	T
			O	R	O				L	O	O			
L	I	S	L	E		H	O	M	O	G	R	A	P	H
O	N	C	E		R	A	R	E	R		T	A	R	A
B	U	R			A	B	A	T	E			R	O	D
E	R	I	C		T	I	L	E	D		C	O	N	E
D	E	P	O	S	I	T	E	D		P	O	N	E	S
			N	E	O				C	A	N			
C	O	N	T	E	N	T		C	O	N	D	U	C	T
L	A	C	E		A	H	E	A	D		U	G	H	S
I	R	A	N		L	E	A	V	E		C	L	A	P
P	S	A	T		E	N	T	E	R		T	I	P	S

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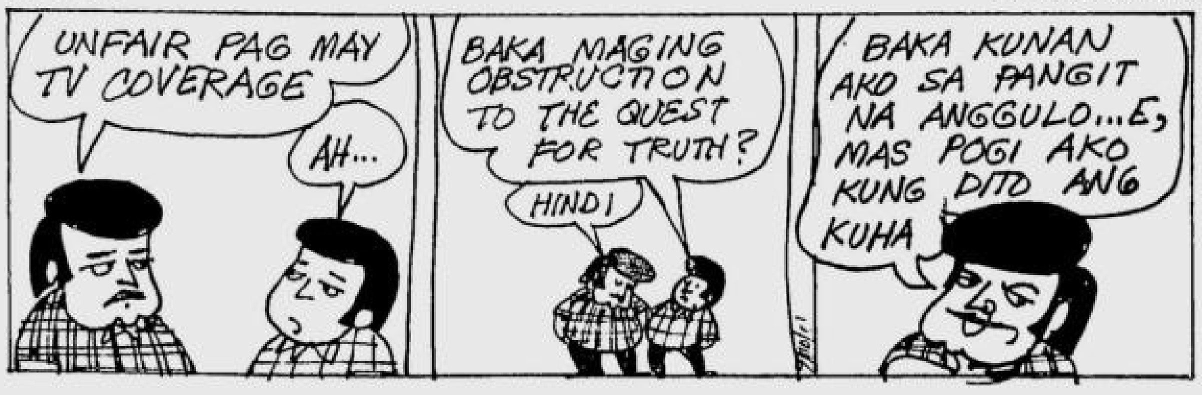
5/24/01

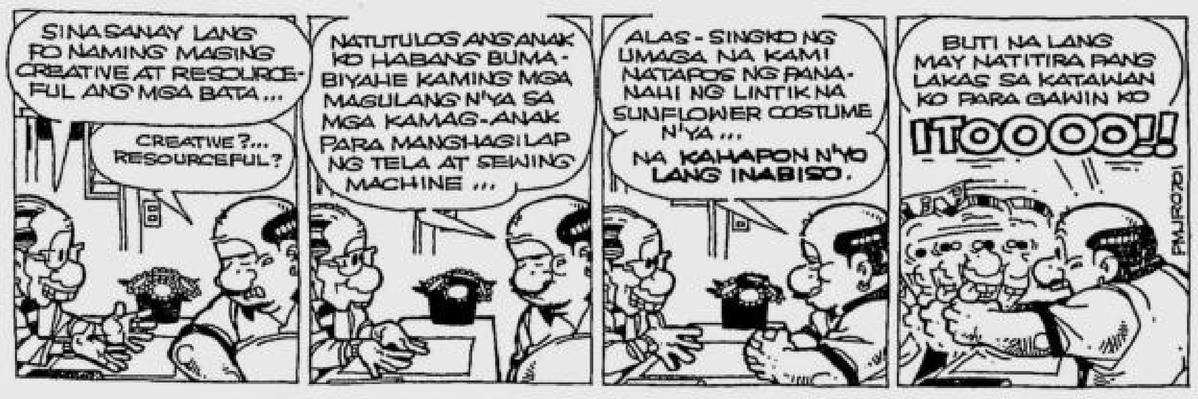
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


UNFAIR PAG MAY TV COVERAGE
AH...
BAKA MAGING OBSTRUCTION TO THE QUEST FOR TRUTH?
HINDI
BAKA KUNAN AKO SA PANGIT NA ANGGULO...E, MAS POGI AKO KUNG DITO ANG KUHA

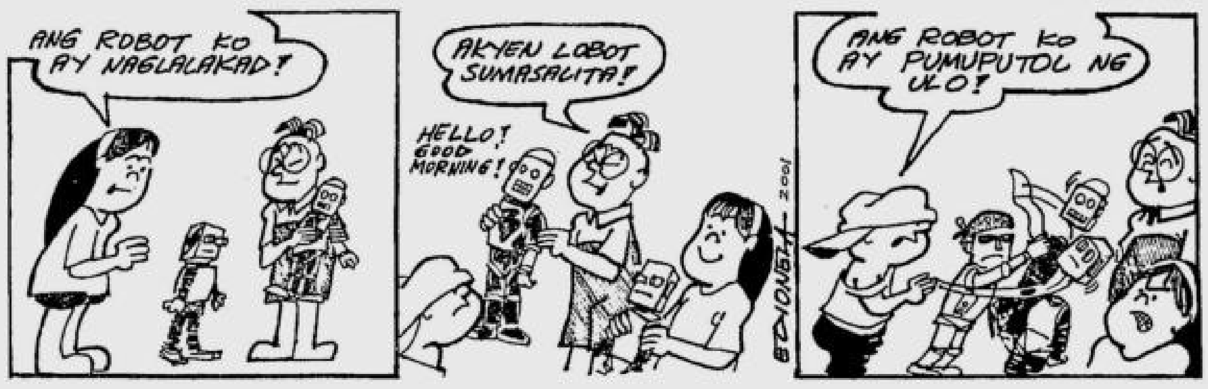
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SINASANAY LANG PO NAMING MAGING CREATIVE AT RESOURCEFUL ANG MGA BATA...
CREATIVE?... RESOURCEFUL?
NATUTULOG ANG ANAK KO HABANG BUMABIYAHE KAMING MGA MAGULANG N'YA SA MGA KAMAG-ANAK PARA MANGHAGILAP NG TELA AT SEWING MACHINE...
ALAS-SINGKO NG UMAGA NA KAMI NATAPOS NG PANANAHI NG LINTIK NA SUNFLOWER COSTUME N'YA...
NA KAHAPON N'YO LANG INABISO.
BUTI NA LANG MAY NATITIRA PANG LAKAS SA KATAWAN KO PARA GAWIN KO
ITOOOO!!
PMJR0701

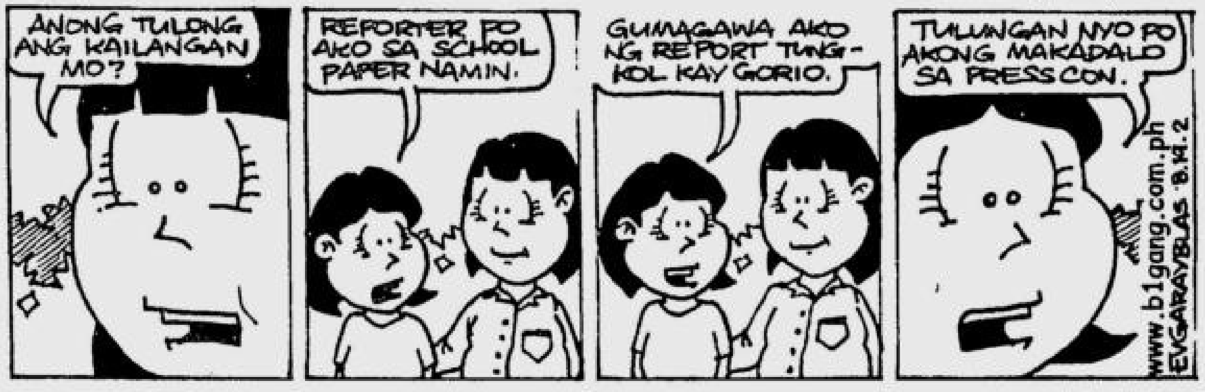
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG ROBOT KO AY NAGLALAKAD!
AKYEN LOBOT SUMASALITA!
HELLO! GOOD MORNING!
ANG ROBOT KO AY PUMUPUTOL NG ULO!
EDIONELA 2001

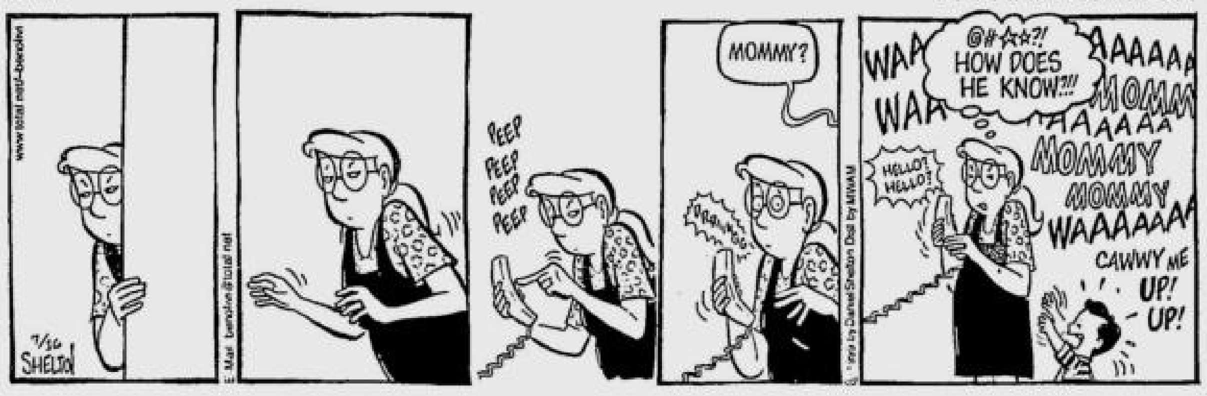
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ANONG TULONG ANG KAILANGAN MO?
REPORTER PO AKO SA SCHOOL PAPER NAMIN.
GUMAGAWA AKO NG REPORT TUNGKOL KAY GORIO.
TULUNGAN NYO PO AKONG MAKADALO SA PRESSCON.
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS B.H.2

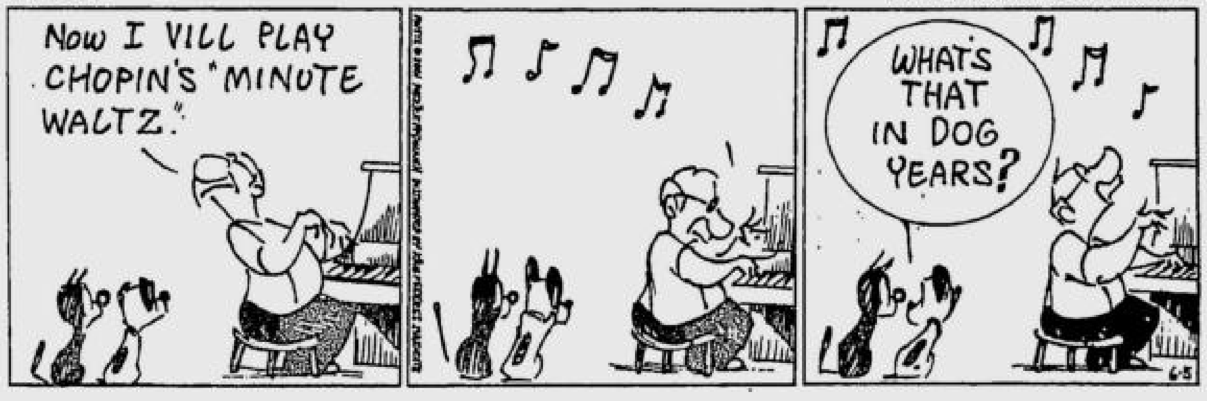
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PEEP PEEP PEEP PEEP
MOMMY?
@#☆☆?! HOW DOES HE KNOW?!!
HELLO? HELLO?
WAA WAA AAAAA MOMM AAAAAA MOMMY MOMMY WAAAAAA
CAWWY ME UP! UP!
7/16 SHELTON

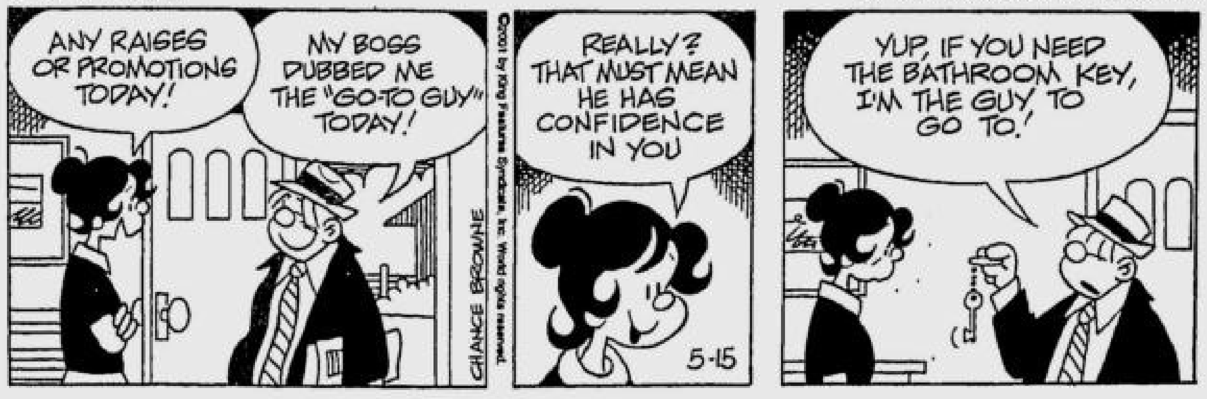
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOW I VILL PLAY CHOPIN'S "MINUTE WALTZ."
WHAT'S THAT IN DOG YEARS?
6-5

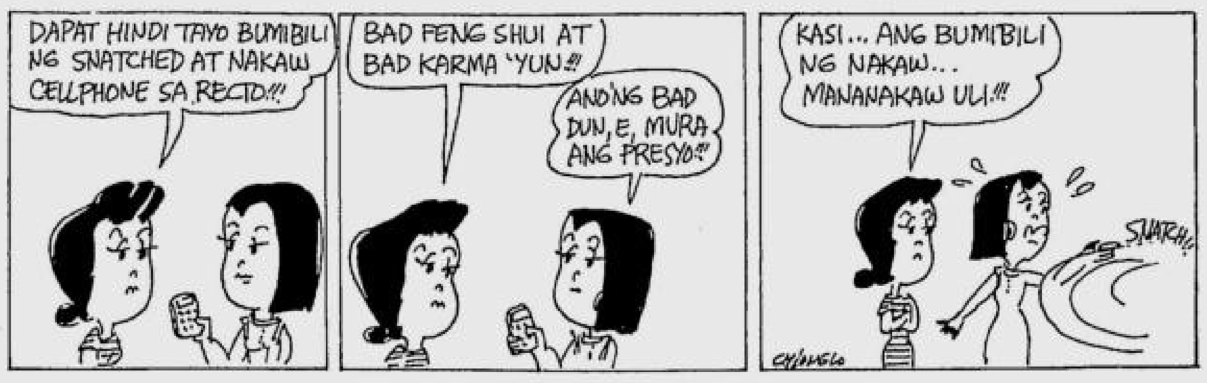
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


ANY RAISES OR PROMOTIONS TODAY?
MY BOSS DUBBED ME THE "GO-TO GUY" TODAY!
REALLY? THAT MUST MEAN HE HAS CONFIDENCE IN YOU
YUP, IF YOU NEED THE BATHROOM KEY, I'M THE GUY TO GO TO.
CHANCE BROWNE
5-15

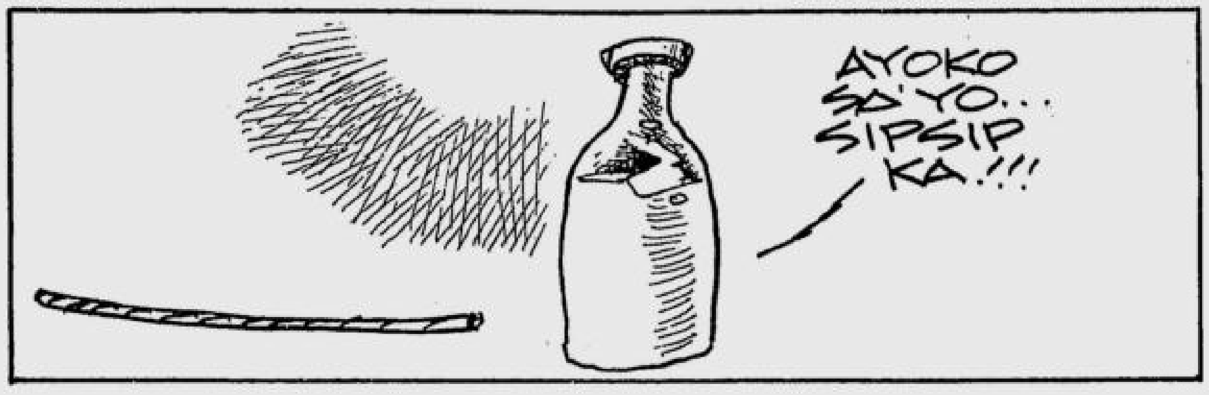
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DAPAT HINDI TAYO BUMIBILI NG SNATCHED AT NAKAW CELLPHONE SA RECTO!!!
BAD FENG SHUI AT BAD KARMA 'YUN!!
ANO'NG BAD DUN, E, MURA ANG PRESYO!!
KASI... ANG BUMIBILI NG NAKAW... MANANAKAW ULI!!!
SNATCH!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO SA'YO... SIPSIP KA!!!

FIRST OUTING. Volunteer members of the Supporters of the WWF at their first workshop in Anilao

GETTING the diving gear ready.

Watching over nature by the threatened sea

EACH of us has a connection with Mother Earth. To a certain degree we are affected by the changes that happen in the world. More importantly, this link enables us to empathize with nature and moves us into action. Some of us are so moved as to be called to work full-time in the field of conservation. Others, because of their important roles in society, must contribute to this cause in some other way.

The Supporters of World Wildlife Fund membership program has been envisioned as a venue for people of different backgrounds to pitch in on the cause of environmental conservation, in whatever way they can. In April 2000 WWF-Philippines started to create an individual membership base that would harness the time, talent and resources of ordinary individuals towards a common goal: "To stop and eventually reverse the accelerating degradation of the environment in the Philippines."

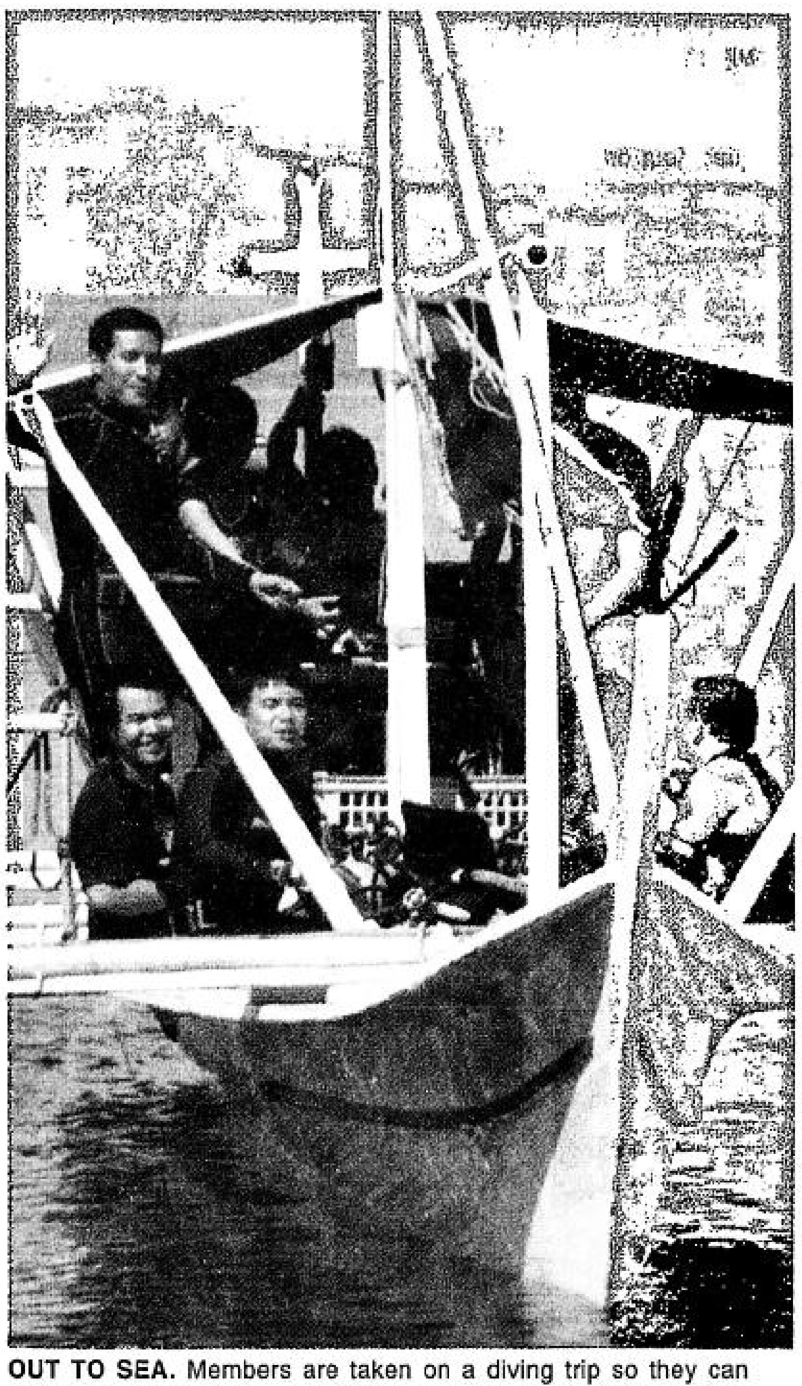
Last May, "Earthwatch by the Sea," held at Balai Resort, Anilao was launched as the SWWF's first membership activity, to give members an idea of the kind of work that is being done in marine biodiversity conservation. During the two-day workshop, members learned about the basics of marine ecology. They were also taught how to identify basic life forms of corals and reef fishes.

A total 15 supporters signed up for the event, many of whom came from the private sector, such as Shell Philippines Exploration, Citibank and Romulo Mabanta law offices. Team members of the Balayan Bay project were on hand to share with the participants their experiences in the field as well as their own insights toward conservation in the bay. The group was also privileged to have Mon Miclat, former director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, to share his expertise in identifying reef fishes.

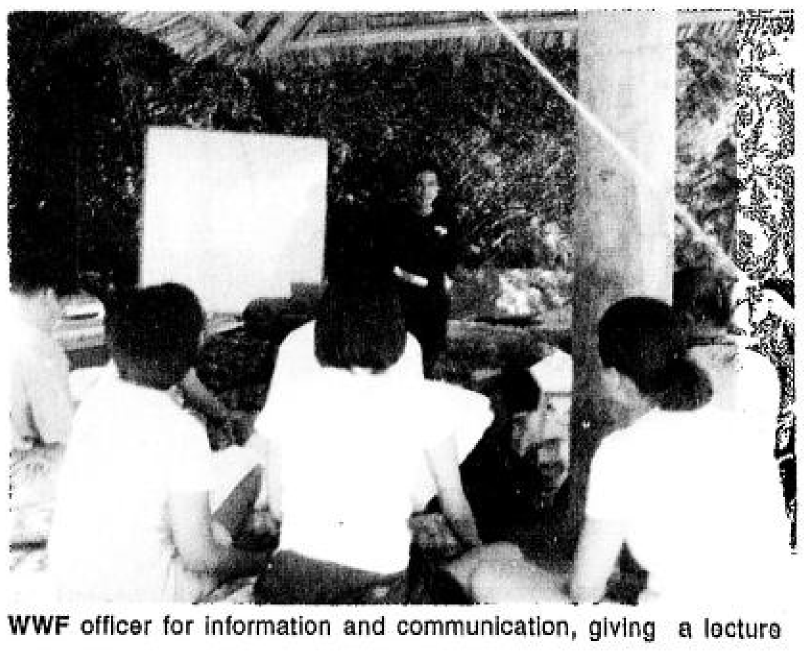
The seaside earth watch, through which the WWF had hoped to create a heightened sense of awareness of the marine environment, is only the first of many activities planned. Long term, WWF-Philippines hopes to build a pool of members who have attended two or more of these seminars with the intention of tapping them as field volunteers.

The "Earthwatch by the Sea" workshop has given members an opportunity to reconnect with Mother Nature. And for an organization like WWF, this affiliation with earth is the best of the natural resources it advocates to preserve.

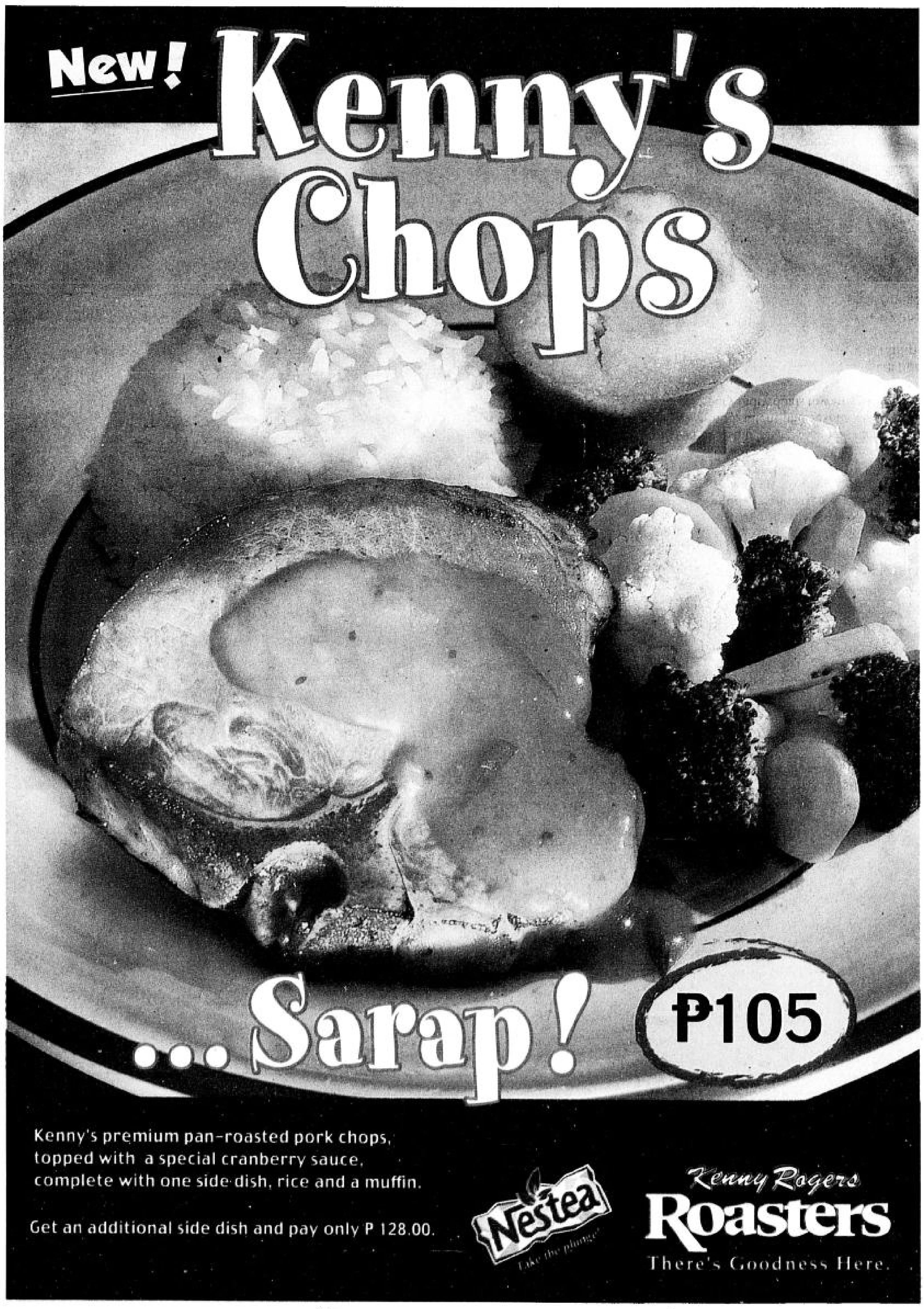
For more information on membership, call Marga Espiritu at 433-3220 to 22 or e-mail mespiritu@wwf-phil.org.ph



OUT TO SEA. Members are taken on a diving trip so they can observe conservation efforts in marine biodiversity.



WWF officer for information and communication, giving a lecture



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